

History of the Thomas Kilham House documents the First Period house built by Thomas and Martha (Solart) Kilham in the 1680s in West Wenham, Massachusetts, as well as key events in the history of West Wenham. The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 as the "Solomon Kimball House."

Volume 1 documents the original land grants of the 1630s that defined the farms in this neighborhood.

History of the Thomas Kilham House, Vol. 1

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History of the Thomas Kilham House Wenham, Massachusetts

VOLUME ONE

ISBN 979-8-331-48580-1



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The Thomas Kilham House, 1900

**History of the
Thomas Kilham House
Wenham, Massachusetts**

Vol. 1

*By
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“Benjamin Conant Series: Part 4, with Harold Boothroyd,” *Hamilton-Wenham Times Past*,
Continental Cablevision, Beverly, MA, June 18, 1992 at 0:36:50

Barnes & Noble Press
New York

In Memory of Pompey

In Loving Gratitude for Rick

TABLE *of* CONTENTS

Preface	v
17th- & 18th-Century Births & Deaths.....	vii
About Double Dates	ix
Chapter 1: In the Woods.....	1
Appendices	
A: Late-Recorded & Unrecorded Deeds	129
B: Boundaries & Subdivisions of Early Farms	141
C: Early Deeds	199
Bibliography	231
Index.....	243

PREFACE

It is a remarkable thing that a house should survive 330 years; this book celebrates this house's longevity, and documents it as an example of First Period architecture. And this book remembers the people who lived here, people who had front-row seats to events that today we think of as distant history: The taking of indigenous peoples' lands ... the Salem Witchcraft Trials ... enslavement of Africans ... and the American Revolution.

The Thomas Kilham House was built by 1686. We'll start the story in the 1630s, however, when the town of Salem divvied up the land in this neighborhood. Volume 1 is devoted to the 50 years between the Salem land grants and the onset of a building boom, a history of West Wenham that hasn't been written elsewhere. We'll see that this site was a forest in the 1630s, possibly with an Agawam foot path more or less where Maple Street is today, the forest bordering a large meadow to the north and another meadow to the west. And we'll see how the forest was cleared for farmland over those 50 years as three generations of farmers subdivided their land to accommodate growing families.

In Volume 2 we'll shift our attention to the building itself. We'll see the construction of a two-room house—a small house by today's standards but not so small for 1686. And we'll see that it reflected an aesthetic that at the time was more modern than the aesthetic expressed in other houses in Essex County. (Yes, in 1686 there was such a thing as an old-fashioned house.) We'll watch the house grow in the customary manner of the area: Within a few years, two rooms became four rooms ... by mid-century the house acquired a lean-to and a saltbox profile ... and by the end of the eighteenth century (or possibly the opening years of the nineteenth century) the roof was raised to accommodate an expanded second floor.

We'll also learn in Volume 2 about this house's seventeenth- and eighteenth-century owners and residents. Thomas Kilham, part of the couple of

who commissioned the construction of the house, was a veteran of the pivotal battle of King Philip's War, a war that nearly decimated the Native American population of southern New England. His wife Martha was the sister and aunt of defendants in the Salem Witchcraft Trials, Thomas and Martha living here during the Trials.

The Fairfield family bought the house from the Kilhams, and owned it for almost all the eighteenth century. They and the rest of the neighborhood endured an epidemic (probably smallpox) in the 1720s, and a diphtheria epidemic in the 1730s. William Fairfield was Speaker of Massachusetts' House of Representatives. His son Benjamin, who owned the house very briefly, was a member of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress during the American Revolution. (Neither William nor Benjamin actually lived in this house, though; they lived on the farm next door.) Owner-resident Matthew Fairfield fought during the Revolution in the Battles of Chelsea Creek, Bunker Hill, Trois-Rivières and Valcour Island. Found guilty of counterfeiting after the war, Matthew eventually moved out of town in disgrace.

It was exciting to discover the connections that owners of the house had with the Salem Witchcraft Trials and the American Revolution. But the most surprising thing about the history of this place is that its history isn't solely about its owners and their families: An enslaved man named Pompey lived here, one of several enslaved people who lived in Wenham during the eighteenth century. (Enslaved people living in *Wenham*?! It turns out that enslavement was actually a familiar thing throughout this part of Essex County during the eighteenth century.) Pompey intrigues me. Was he born in Africa? Did he marry, have children? Was he friends with any of the enslaved people who lived on other farms in West Wenham, or was he lonely? Where did he sleep? In the attic? The barn? Was he the only enslaved person who lived here?

Pompey is a reminder that, far too often, *history is a reflection of whoever leaves a paper trail*. So celebrate this place. Enjoy its story. Stick to the pictures, if footnote-reading isn't your thing. And wonder about the aspects of its history that have been lost simply because nobody wrote them down.

June 2021
Wenham, Massachusetts

17TH- & 18TH-CENTURY BIRTHS & DEATHS

It's probably the case that some 26 people were born in this house during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. At least 13 people probably died here.

Births that Probably Occurred in the Thomas Kilham House

Children of owners of the Thomas Kilham House who were born in Wenham while their parents were living in the house:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Samuel Kilham, <i>ca.</i> 1691 | 14. Elizabeth Fairfield, 1741 |
| 2. Martha Kilham, <i>ca.</i> 1693 | 15. Priscilla Fairfield (2 nd), 1743 |
| 3. John Kilham, 1695 | 16. Matthew Fairfield (2 nd), 1745 |
| 4. Daniel Kilham (1 st), 1698 | 17. Josiah Fairfield Jr., 1747 |
| 5. Daniel Kilham (2 nd), 1700 | 18. Abigail Fairfield, 1768 |
| 6. Esther Fairfield, 1725 | 19. Elizabeth Fairfield, 1770 |
| 7. Matthew Fairfield (1 st), 1727 | 20. John Fairfield, 1773 |
| 8. William Fairfield, 1728 | 21. Hannah Fairfield, 1775 |
| 9. Eunice Fairfield (1 st), 1730 | 22. Alice Fairfield, <i>ca.</i> 1777 |
| 10. Priscilla Fairfield (1 st), 1732 | 23. Sarah Fairfield, <i>ca.</i> 1779 |
| 11. Isaac Fairfield, 1735 | 24. Walter Fairfield, <i>ca.</i> 1780 |
| 12. John Fairfield, 1737 | 25. William Fairfield, <i>ca.</i> 1780 |
| 13. Eunice Fairfield (2 nd), 1739 | 26. Charlotte Fairfield, <i>ca.</i> 1784 |

Deaths that May Have Occurred in the Thomas Kilham House

Owners of the Thomas Kilham House and their children, who died in Wenham:

1. Daniel Kilham (1st), 1699
2. Esther Fairfield, 1727
3. William Fairfield, 1729
4. Eunice (Cogswell) Fairfield, 1730
5. Eunice Fairfield (1st), 1730
6. Priscilla Fairfield (1st), 1736
7. Isaac Fairfield, 1738
8. John Fairfield, 1753
9. Elizabeth Fairfield, 1751
10. Priscilla Fairfield (2nd), 1760
11. Josiah Fairfield, 1777
12. Alice Fairfield, 1777
13. Unnamed child of Matthew and Abigail (Ayer) Fairfield, 1782

Might Pompey have died in the Thomas Kilham House?

ABOUT DOUBLE DATES

Study of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century documents requires some familiarity with old-style *vs.* new-style calendars, and the convention of double dates. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII introduced a new calendar (the Gregorian calendar or new-style calendar) to correct some accumulated errors in the Julian calendar (the old-style calendar). One key difference between the calendars is that the New Year began on March 25 in the old-style calendar, but on January 1 in the new-style calendar. Although many countries were quick to adopt the new-style calendar, England and its colonies did not do so until 1752. Consequently, for the period 1582 to 1752, *double dates are used for events that happened between January 1 and March 25.*

Consider the example of a marriage that took place in Massachusetts on, say, February 1 of 1720. The happy couple would have been using the old-style calendar at the time, and the event would have happened several weeks *before* New Year's Day (March 25). But today's scholar reckons time in the new-style calendar, in which February 1 is a few weeks *after* New Year's Day (January 1). In the old-style calendar the date was February 1, 1720, but in the new-style calendar the date is February 1, 1721. The double date of February 1, 1720/1 is the convention used in this text to denote the event as having taken place in 1720 in contemporaneous reckoning, but 1721 in modern reckoning. You can read it as "It was late 1720 to them at the time, but it was early 1721 to us now." However, a date that incorporates a hyphen (for example "1720–1721") means that the event in question occurred at some undetermined point of time in that date range. Thus, read "1720–1721" as "It happened sometime in 1720 or 1721."

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Vol. 1

CHAPTER 1

IN THE WOODS

SHORTLY after English colonists founded Salem, the town began making large grants of land to encourage settlement—including grants in current-day West Wenham. Although it's not clear who the first colonist was to own the site of the Thomas Kilham House, the site was probably part of a grant dating to 1639, and was owned at an early date by Phineas Fiske. Fifty years later, a building boom was underway in West Wenham as third-generation colonists (the first cohort who had no firsthand knowledge of life in England) sought housing for their young families—subdividing their fathers' and grandfathers' farms, and upgrading cart paths to town-maintained roads.

ALTHOUGH the Thomas Kilham House is today a rare survivor, its construction should be viewed in the context of this end-of-century generational building boom. Likewise, the contemporary upgrading of West Wenham's roads (including the road that would become Maple Street) should be viewed as a response to the area's growth in population.

SALEM LAND GRANTS & THE PURITAN GREAT MIGRATION

The area of land that originally belonged to Salem was enormous, encompassing not just current-day Salem, but also Wenham, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Marblehead, Beverly, Danvers, Peabody and part of Middleton. But despite its size, the areas outside of the Salem town center were hardly empty hinterlands. Salem began making grants of land to its inhabitants almost immediately after the town was founded, and allocated its territory *quickly*. (In the case of current-day Danvers, grant-making began in 1632 and escalated in 1635. Much of the land in Danvers was granted between 1635 and 1640.¹) Once a resident was accepted by the town, he was entitled to at least ten acres of land for free. A worthy recipient was granted even more land, depending on the size of his family and his social standing.² Grants consisted of varying combinations of timberland and meadow—the timberland providing materials for housing, fencing and furniture, and the meadow providing hay for livestock. Grants were colloquially called “farms.” Some farms were worked by their respective grantees, while other farms were rented out. Some farms were kept as open land for decades, while others were quickly developed with housing.³

Salem, like other towns throughout the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies, was experiencing a population boom during the 1630s. It was the height of the Great Migration of 1620–1640 when some twenty thousand Puritans left England for Massachusetts⁴ in search of a more favorable religious, political and economic climate. Salem responded to the wave of immi-

1 Charles W. Upham, *Salem Witchcraft* (Boston: Wiggin and Lunt, 1867), 1:xv-xxvii; and Harriet Silvester Tapley, *Chronicles of Danvers (Old Salem Village), Massachusetts, 1632–1923* (Danvers, MA: Danvers Historical Society, 1923), 9-10.

2 See, for example, Town of Salem, *Book of Grants, 1634–1720*, MS, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, 12-15; and Essex Institute, *Historical Collections, Second Series, Vol. I: Town Records of Salem, 1634–1659* (Salem, MA: Essex Institute Press, 1868), 19-25.

3 Adding to the challenge of researching seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century deeds: A “farm” could consist of multiple parcels that weren’t necessarily contiguous to each other.

4 Lynn Betlock, “New England’s Great Migration,” *New England Ancestors*, Spring 2003, 18-20. See also Virginia DeJohn Anderson, *New England’s Generation: The Great Migration and the Formation of Society and Culture in the Seventeenth Century* (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1991), 15.

gration by using land grants to attract “people of quality” while simultaneously encouraging the development of new population centers within its borders that were intended to mature into standalone towns. Wenham was the first town to break off from Salem, but we shouldn’t think of that event as an act of rebellion, the way we think of the American Revolution or even the South’s succession during the Civil War. Rather, Wenham’s separation from Salem was part of a grand plan throughout the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colonies to promote the planting and cultivation of new towns.

Scholarship done in the nineteenth century produced a map of 1630s-vintage grants in Danvers. A portion of that map appears in Figure 1.3, and is instructive because it shows the irregular shapes that characterize grants of that period.⁵ No analogous map of Wenham was found during the research of this book,⁶ but careful study of late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century deeds reveals the approximate locations of grants in West Wenham (Figure 1.4).

Portions of farms in the neighborhood of the Thomas Kilham House site (*i.e.*, the Phineas Fiske Farm, the Thomas Trusler Farm on the west, and the John Fairfield Farm and James Moulton Farm on the east) were in a locale called “the Woods.” “The Woods” appears as a place name—connoting a specific locale in West Wenham—in a handful of estate inventories and deeds from the last third of the seventeenth century.⁷ It wasn’t the only West

Continued on p. 8

5 Grants were laid out by town-appointed surveyors; see Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):11, 35, 40, 43, 52, 56, 64. Given the size of Greater Salem, one wonders how the surveyors could have done their job without drawing a series of maps. And, if they *did* draw such maps, whatever happened to them?

6 A series of maps drawn in 1941 (unsigned by their maker) is the most thorough attempt found that maps twentieth-century West Wenham property boundaries against their antecedents, but the only seventeenth-century grant that is mapped is that of the John Fairfield Farm. See “West End,” MS, 1941, Wenham Museum, Wenham, Massachusetts, maps, 71.10.31.

7 The documents that referred to “the Woods” of West Wenham are:

- Inventory of the estate of Phineas Fiske (1673). Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume V, 1672–1674* (Lynn, MA: Thomas P. Nichols & Son Co., 1916), 203; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume II, 1665–1674* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1917), 372. See Appendix D for a transcription. The original probate documents of the estate of Phineas Fiske, filed at Essex County Probate 9512 (Phineas Fiske, 1673), have been lost.
- Inventory of the estate of James Moulton (1680). Essex County Probate 19018 (James Molton [*sic*], 1680); and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume III, 1675–1681* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1920), 356.



Figure 1.1. Map of eastern Essex County, ca.1633, during the Great Migration. Cape Ann projects into the Atlantic at the top of the image. The words "Agawam" and "Indians" appear at left; "Salem" at center; "Marble Harbor [Marblehead]," "Saugus" and "Nahant" at right.⁸

-
- Inventory of the estate of John Fiske (1683). Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume IX, 1683–1686* (Worcester, MA: The Hefferman Press, 1975), 131-132. The original probate documents of the estate of John Fiske, filed at Essex County Probate 9500 (Ens. John Fiske, 1683), have been lost.
 - Essex County Deeds 8:108 (Daniel Kilham to John Gilbert and Daniel Kilham Jr., 1688). See Appendix C for a transcription.
 - Essex County Deeds 33:197 (John Fairfield [3rd] et al. to Daniel Kilham Jr., 1690).
 - Essex County Deeds 15:106 (Charles Gott [Jr.] to John Gott, 1696). See Appendix C for a transcription.

Wenham, of course, didn't have a monopoly on Salem-area forestland. West Peabody also had a neighborhood called "the Woods" that is described in Sidney Perley, "The Woods, Salem, In 1700," *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, 51 (1915):177-196.

⁸ Cartographer unknown. The manuscript is in the Sloane collection of maps at the British Museum, and is reproduced in Perley, *The History of Salem, Massachusetts, Volume I, 1626–1637* (Salem, MA: Sidney Perley, 1924), 311, 313. The map does not include Ipswich (which was

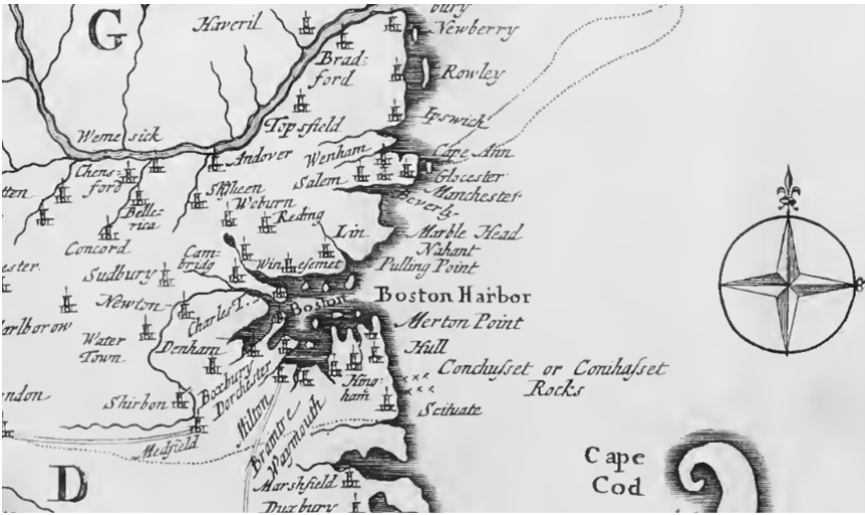


Figure 1.2. Map of eastern Massachusetts, 1702, 60 years after the end of the Great Migration.⁹

founded in 1633) or Gloucester (which had been temporarily abandoned at the time the map was created).

⁹ Cotton Mather, *Magnalia Christi Americana: Or, the Ecclesiastical History of New-England* (London: Thomas Parkhurst, 1702), Book I, interleaf between Contents and his p. 1. Detail.

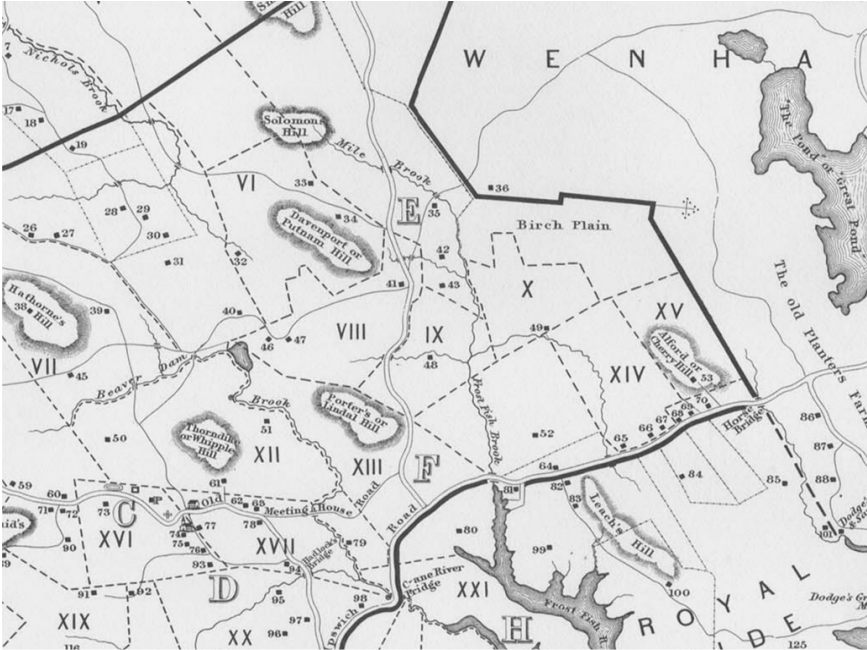


Figure 1.3. Map of Danvers in 1692, drawn in 1866. Heavy dashed lines denote boundaries of Salem land grants made during the 1630s; lighter dashed lines denote subsequent, early subdivisions. Numbered squares denote Danvers houses thought to have been standing in 1692. Note the irregular shapes of the grants. (The Kilham House is located near the E in “WENHAM” at upper right.)¹⁰

¹⁰ Upham, 1 (1867):xviii.

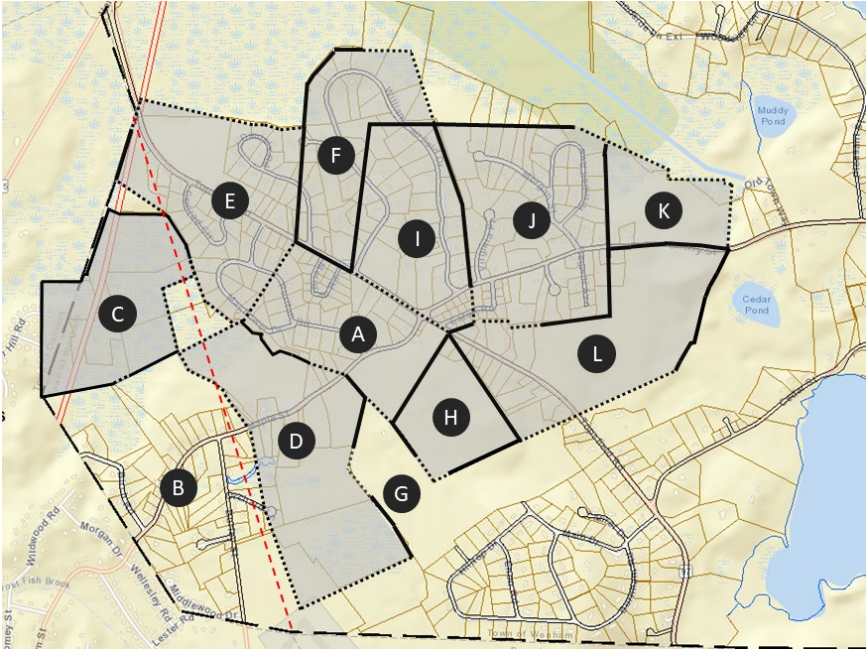


Figure 1.4. Early farms and common land along Maple and Cherry Streets, with dates of farms' original grants. The dashed red line highlights the original town line between Danvers and Wenham.

- A. **Phineas Fiske**, by 1665, perhaps granted as early as 1639 to someone other than Phineas; **site of the Thomas Kilham House**
- B. **Lawrence Leach (Leach's Meadow)**, December 23, 1639
- C. **Leach's Swamp**, common land distributed in the 1690s
- D. **Thomas Trusler**, January 21, 1639
- E. **William Osbourne**, by 1644
- F. **Thomas Fiske Jr.**, by 1686
- G. **Lord's Hill Commons**, common land distributed *ca.*1705–1707
- H. **Thomas Spooner**, before 1651
- I. **John Fairfield**, December 23, 1639
- J. **William Fiske Sr.**, August 8, 1639
- K. **William Wellman**, by 1656
- L. **James Moulton**, December 9, 1639

Wenham locale with its own place name; early Wenham deeds and town records make reference to “the Great Swamp,” “the Great Meadow” and “Meadow Hill” with the same air of familiarity. The Great Swamp, of course, was Wenham Swamp in the northwestern part of town. The Great Meadow was west of Wenham Swamp, and extended to the Topsfield town line; Meadow Hill, adjacent to the Great Meadow, was the hill traversed by Topsfield road that crests between Daniels Road and Conrad Circle.¹¹

We can determine some of the boundaries of the Woods in general terms, but not all of them. The Great Swamp and Great Meadow were to the north, and an expanse of open space called Leach’s Meadow was to the west or southwest somewhere in the vicinity of current-day Burley Street. (Leach’s Meadow segued into Birch Plains, an expanse of open space that began in

11 Early references in town records to the Great Meadow include Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):161 (“the greate medow towards Wenham,” 1649), 162 (grant made by Salem in 1649, *after* Wenham had been established as its own town), 166 (grant made by Salem in 1650), 181 (grant made by Salem in 1654/5, and grant made by Salem in 1643); and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1930), 9 (reference to construction of “the highway that is begun in the great midows,” 1654), 11 (fencing-in of the “Great midow” so as to keep out cattle, 1655). For early references to Meadow Hill, see Essex County Deeds 26:63 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Samuel Fiske, 1712) and 126:217 (Benjamin Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1767), second parcel.

Determining the specific boundaries of the Great Meadow is outside the scope of this book. In general terms, however, part of the Great Meadow lay in a narrow strip of land abutting the Topsfield-Wenham town line in the very northwest corner of town. (Essex County Deeds 13:184 (Edward Kemp to [Rev.] Antipas Newman, 1658), fourth parcel, describes a ten-acre property in the Great Meadow that ran the breadth of the meadow from the Topsfield town line to the Great Swamp.) In addition to that narrow strip at the corner of town, the Great Meadow extended to Wenham Causeway to the southwest, and extended to the base of Meadow Hill to the south and southeast, parts of which that today are rather swampy. Swampy today but meadowland 300 years ago? The construction of the Danvers & Georgetown Railroad in 1853, later the Newburyport and Wakefield Branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad, significantly altered the drainage patterns of the area.

Wenham and extended into Beverly and Danvers.¹²) As for the other boundaries of the Woods—the northwest, south-southwest and eastern boundaries—if the Woods extended beyond the Phineas Fiske, Thomas Trusler, John Fairfield and James Moulton Farms, there's no evidence of this in the historical record.¹³

12 For the Wenham portion of Birch Plains see Essex County Deeds 9:117 (disposition of real estate of John Greene, 1691). For the Beverly and Danvers portions see, for example, Essex County Probate 13193 (Zachariah Herrick, 1695), Inventory; and 13157 (Joseph Herrick Sr., 1718), Will. See also Perley, "Rial Side: Part of Salem in 1700," *Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society*, 8 (1920):34 and map opposite 33; and Figure 1.3 of this text.

13 Much of this chapter explores early housing along the Maple Street-Cherry Street corridor, without delving much into the history of those areas of West Wenham that are south of this corridor. Two such areas were private property at an early date, and therefore have a history of deeds and probate written during the period when "the Woods" appears in other documents. These areas were: (1) the Herrick Farm straddling the Beverly-Wenham town line near the current-day Beverly Airport and (2) Cedar Street and the southern end of Topsfield Road. The first area is of interest (with respect to the boundaries of the Woods) because of its proximity to Leach's Meadow. The second areas is of interest because it included some of the James Moulton Farm (at least some of which was in the Woods) as well as land adjacent to that farm.

The bulk of the Herrick Farm was in the part of Birch Plains that's in Beverly. If any of the Wenham portion of the Herrick Farm was in the Woods, none of the surviving early deeds or probate (despite references to both Birch Plains and Leach's Meadow in Herrick probate documents) indicates this. See Essex County Deeds 1:36 (Henry and Francis Skerry to Henry Herrick, 1653); 11:123 (Ephraim Herrick to Robert Cue, 1694/5); 15:311 (Ephraim Herrick to Caleb Kimball, 1694); and 32:99 (Ephraim Herrick [Jr.] to Joseph Herrick, 1699). See also Essex County Probate 13133 (Henry Herrick, 1671); 13146 (John Herrick, 1680); 13193 (Zachariah Herrick, 1695); 13134 (Henry Herrick Sr., 1703); 13157 (Joseph Herrick Sr., 1718); 13147 (John Herrick Jr., 1723); and 13158 (Capt. Joseph Herrick Sr. [Jr.], 1726).

Similarly, there's no mention of the Woods in the context of the subdivision of the James Moulton Farm or in the context of adjacent properties in the current-day Cedar Street-Topsfield Road area. See Essex County Deeds 1:13 (William Lord to [Rev.] John Fiske, 1651[2]); 2:94 (Daniel Rumball to James Moulton, 1664[5]); 4:182 (John Shipley to Richard Kimball [*sic*], 1656), 50-acre upland parcel; 4:182 (Richard Hutton to Richard Kimball [*sic*], 1656[7]), 35-acre upland parcel; 7:152 (James Moulton to James Friend, 1674); 13:12 (Samuel Moulton to Samuel Kimball, 1697); 23:266 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to Richard Kimball, 1711); 23:271 (Samuel Kimball Jr. to Richard Kimball, 1711); 44:226 (James Moulton to James Friend, 1688[9]); and 44:227 (Joseph Batcheler [*sic*] to James Friend, 1703[4]). See also Essex County Probate 15726 (Richard Kimball, 1713); 15741 (Samuel Kimball Sr., 1717); 10205 (Dea. James Friend, 1718); and 10209 (John Friend, 1718).

THE PHINEAS FISKE FARM, SITE OF THE THOMAS KILHAM HOUSE

Figure 1.4, Farm A

Phineas Fiske (ca.1600–1673) arrived in Salem by 1641, four years after his kinsmen Rev. John Fiske (ca.1601–1677) and William Fiske (ca.1614–1654) had made the voyage. Phineas had been living in Wingfield, Suffolk, England, and immigrated with his wife Sarah (Francis) Fiske and their children. Phineas received a grant of land in current-day Wenham in 1641 and took up residence there, becoming a freeman the next year. He was a captain in the militia, Wenham's first constable, a member of Wenham's first board of selectmen, and (in 1653) Wenham's Representative to the General Court.¹⁴ Phineas was a bigger-than-average fish in a small pond. When a tax was assessed in 1657 to pay the minister's salary, there were 32 men in town who were subject to it, none of whom was assessed more than Phineas, two of whom were assessed the same amount, and 29 who were assessed less. Two years later, 27 men were called upon to pay the minister's salary, five of whom were assessed more than Phineas, two assessed the same amount, and nineteen assessed less.¹⁵

Phineas owned a piece of land overlapping the current-day Wenham Pines development,¹⁶ and his house was located on this lot (Figure 1.5). He

14 Rev. Lucius R. Paige, "List of Freemen," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 3 (1849):189 (cited subsequently as *NEHGR*); Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., ed., *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Vol. III, 1644–1657* (Boston: Press of William White, 1854), 297; Shurtleff, *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Vol. IV, Part I, 1650–1660* (Boston: Press of William White, 1854), 120; Myron O. Allen, *The History of Wenham* (Boston: Bazin & Chandler, 1860), 28, 29, 102, 134; Albert A. Fiske, *The Fiske Family*, Second Edition (Chicago: no publisher, 1867), 185, 205–207; Perley, "Wenham," in D. Hamilton Hurd, ed., *History of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1888), 2:1244–1245; Frederick Clifton Pierce, *Fiske and Fisk Family* (Chicago: W. B. Conkey Company, 1896), 51; Perley, *The History of Salem, Massachusetts, Volume II, 1638–1670* (Salem, MA: Sidney Perley, 1926), 403; and G. Andrews Moriarty, "Genealogical Research in England: The Fiske Family," *NEHGR*, 88 (1934):270–273 (includes identification of Phineas's parents Thomas and Margery (----) Fiske, and marriage to Sarah Francis at Metfield, Suffolk on October 2, 1617).

15 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 13, 17–18.

16 This lot was likely the 20-acre grant that Phineas received on December 3, 1641; see Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 55; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):112; and Perley, *History of Salem*, 2 (1926):121, 151. We know that he owned it by March 2, 1642/3, because an entry in the Wenham town records of that date makes it clear that Phineas owned land near the site of the First Meeting House:

ran a tavern in Wenham, having had the license transferred to him from his cousin William Fiske in 1648,¹⁷ and it is likely that the tavern was located in

There is giuen vnto Wenham Twenty acres of ground being laid out of eyther side of y^e meeting house. Ten Acres giuen by M^r Smith out of his fearme & laid out by him beginning wth the bounds at y^e vpper end of Phinehas Fiske Lott & soe to y^e swampe; & the other Ten acres giuen by M^r John ffiske being laid out Joyneing to it on y^e other s^d [side] of y^e meeting house.

Wellington Pool, "Extracts From the Town Records of Wenham, Mass.," *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, 19 (1882):104; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 4. (Wenham's First Meeting House stood north of the cemetery, to the east of the John Solart House at 106 Main Street; see Allen (1860), 26, 160, 194-195.)

A marriage contract from 1682 tells us that Phineas's lot was bounded on the south by Alewife Brook, the stream that connects Wenham Lake with Miles River:

John Fiske carpenter of Wenham & Remember his wife sendeth greeting Know yee that upon contract of marriage between my son Sam^l Fiske and Elizabeth Whipple of Ipswich I doe give grant enffoe alienate and sett over a parcel of land containing about nyne ares being more or less at [*vid*] it lyeth within the limmetts of Wenham aforesayd bounded by our brother Thomas Fiske his land eastward and the brooke wch runneth out of the great Pond southward and by Mr. Smiths farne & that land called Goodman Bachelers pasture Northward & Westward by the deviationall lyne between our late fathers lott and Richard Goldsmith late deceased together with all the rest of our meadow lyeing att the lower or south end of our land formerly our ffathers as also a convenient high way crose the end of the said Prcell of land to our brother Thomas Fiske class or Prcell of Meadow To Have

Dated November 10, 1682 and witnessed by Thomas Fiske. See Pierce (1896), 62-63.

Alewife Brook, incidentally, was part of the original town line between Wenham and Beverly (Salem) as late as 1667; see Perley, *History of Salem*, 2 (1926):map between 147 and 148, 154.

For subsequent partial history of this lot, see Essex County Deeds 13:256 (Samuel Fiske Jr. to John Porter, 1697); 100:93 (John Porter to Benjamin and Nehemiah Porter, 1739); 143:54 (Billy Porter to Tyler Porter, 1776); 166:17 (Tyler Porter to Jonathan Porter, 1798); 168:179 (Jonathan Porter to Isaac and Paul Porter, 1800), second parcel; 171:132 (Isaac and Paul Porter to Nathaniel Porter, 1802); 174:294 (Nathaniel Porter to Nathaniel Kimball, 1805); 384:36 (Rebekah Dodge, guardian, to Nathaniel Kimball, 1836); and 553:9 (Edward L. Kimball to Henry Tarr, 1857). See Essex County Probate 22476 (Jonathan Porter, 1759), Will and Inventory, "Fisks land;" and 44414 (Nathaniel Kimball, 1855), Will and Inventory. See Joseph W. Porter, *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Richard Porter* (Bangor, ME: Burr & Robinson Printers, 1878), 236. See Benjamin H. Conant (attributed), "Sites of Old Houses in Wenham Gleaned Principally from the Registry of Deeds," MS, no date, Wenham Museum, Wenham, Massachusetts, map, 87.38, house site #3.

The Fiske homestead is referred to, as an abutting property, in Essex County Deeds 9:154 (Ezekiel Woodward Sr. to William Goodhue Sr., mortgage, 1693); 24:184 (Capt. Thomas Fiske to Freeborn Balch, 1695); and 50:43 (Joseph Goodhue to John Edwards Jr., 1695).

¹⁷ Shurtleff, 3 (1854):127. See also Allen (1860), 29-30; and Perley, "Wenham" (1888), 1241 (which incorrectly states that Phineas received his license in 1647).

Phineas's house. By 1658 Phineas also owned land in the Great Meadow, which was probably the 12½ acres of meadow mentioned in the inventory of his estate.¹⁸ He also owned a 30-acre lot in “the Neck” of East Wenham.¹⁹

His first wife died September 10, 1659 in Wenham, and he married Elizabeth Eastwick on April 4, 1660.²⁰ Phineas died April 7, 1673, a widower for the second time, and left his estate to his sons James, John and Thomas Fiske and his “nephew” Samuel Fiske. (“Nephew” is the term that Phineas used in

18 Essex County Deeds 13:184 (Edward Kemp to [Rev.] Antipas Newman, 1658), fourth parcel, describes a property in the Great Meadow that abutted meadowland owned by Phineas Fiske, Kemp's lot being immediately to the south of Fiske's.

For probate of Phineas's estate, see Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 5 (1916):203; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 2 (1917): 371-372. See Appendix D for transcriptions of the will and estate inventory. The original probate documents of the estate of Phineas Fiske, filed at Essex County Probate 9512 (Phineas Fiske, 1673), have been lost.

In 1645 Phineas was mentioned as an abutter to a parcel owned by Thomas Smith:

Indenture, dated, 11:5:1644 [January 5, 1644/5], between Thomas Smyth of Gloster and Robert Hawes of Wenham, said Smyth, for 31li. 15s., sold to said Hawes his house, cowhouse and twenty acres of land adjoining the house and thirty acres more near the great swamp, butting upon John Whit on one side and Phineas Fisk on the other, also six acres of meadow lying in the great madow, all the said land lying in the town of Wenham. Wit: Danel Roubmel, Sarey (her mark) Rouble and William Dudbridge.

Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume II, 1656–1662* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1912), 293-294. Although the phrase “[a]butting upon John Whit[e] on one side and Phineas Fisk[e] on the other” could refer to Thomas Smith's 30-acre lot near the Great Swamp, a broader reading of the record suggests that the phrase actually applies to Smith's house lot—and that the reference to Phineas's abutting property is indeed a reference to Phineas's own house lot.

19 Town of Ipswich, *Ipswich Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, 1639–1695*, MS, 1:178 (Edward Spaulding to John Sallard [sic], 1654) records the sale of multiple parcels, including a seven-acre subdivision of Phineas Fiske's 30-acre lot. See also Stephen Waasa Spaulding, “How Edward Spaulding, a Puritan Farmer from the Norfolk-Suffolk Border, Came to Prosper in New England,” *NEHGR*, 173 (2019):227. If there was anything left of the 30-acre lot at the time of Phineas's death, it doesn't appear in the inventory of his estate—unless it was contiguous to his house lot and was therefore part of “the homestead.”

20 Pierce (1896), 51; Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham: Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1654–1688*, MS transcription by Wellington Pool (1902), 78 (death of Sarah Fiske), 79 (marriage to Elizabeth Eastwick) (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 389; cited subsequently as “*MS Vital Records, 1654–1688*, MS (1902)”; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1904), 119 (marriage to Elizabeth Eastwick); and Moriarty (1934), 271. *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904) omitted the record of Sarah Fiske's death; such are the perils of transcriptions.

his will, a term that could be used at the time to refer to any male kinsman of a younger generation, other than a son. Samuel was actually Phineas's first cousin twice removed.) Eldest son James received half of Phineas's house and real estate, and younger sons John and Thomas each received a quarter. Phineas's personal effects were split equally among his sons, the exception being that his bible went to Samuel. In addition to Phineas's homestead (valued at £105) and 12½ acres of meadow (valued at £25), the inventory of Phineas's estate included 50 acres of land "in the woods" valued at £62.10s.²¹

When exactly Phineas acquired the 50-acre parcel—the future site of the Thomas Kilham House—is not clear. There is no remaining record of a grant in Wenham town records, and there's no record of a deed with Essex County.²² There is, however, a record of a grant from Salem that may provide a clue: In December 1641 (before Wenham's separation from Salem in 1643) Salem granted Phineas "20 acres more at the village near the pond."²³ That grant's reference to "the village near the pond" certainly indicates Wenham, and the part about "20 acres *more*" (emphasis added) implies that Phineas had already received a grant of some amount of land.

21 For Phineas's death, see Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1654–1688*, MS (1902), 85 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 395); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 198; and Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 5 (1916), 261. Elizabeth (Eastwick) Fiske's death is not mentioned in Phineas's will—which suggests that she predeceased him—although her death is not recorded in any of the three sources cited.

For probate of Phineas's estate, see Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 5 (1916):203; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 2 (1917):371–372. See Appendix D for transcriptions of the will and estate inventory. The original probate documents of the estate of Phineas Fiske, filed at Essex County Probate 9512 (Phineas Fiske, 1673), have been lost. "Nephew" Samuel was Samuel (ca.1645–1716) the tailor, the son of emigrant William Fiske (ca.1614–1654). Samuel's farm is discussed in Appendix B, pages 145–150.

22 Not all Essex County records ended up in Salem, by the way. *Ipswich Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, 1639–1695* is five volumes of material that was recorded in Ipswich—and includes some Wenham deeds.

23 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 55; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):112; and Perley, *History of Salem*, 2 (1926):121, 151. Grant made December 3, 1641. Spelling modernized. This 20-acre parcel was probably the same lot near the future Wenham Meeting House (i.e., the First Meeting House) referred to in the town record text in footnote 16.

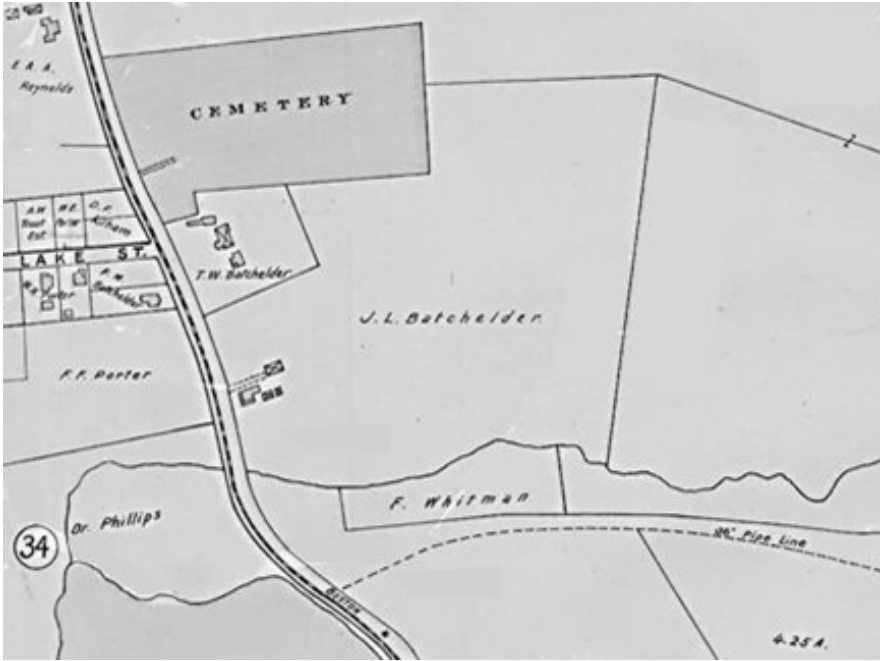


Figure 1.5 Site of Phineas Fiske’s house. Phineas owned a lot, perhaps on the order of twenty acres large, that had Alewife Brook as its southern boundary and overlapped the “J. L. Batchelder” lot shown here. Phineas’s house was on this lot and his tavern probably in his house.²⁴

24 *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (Boston: Walker Lithograph & Publishing Co., 1910), plate 33. This is the oldest map of Wenham that shows property lines.

Keeping in mind that by 1658 Phineas owned at least two lots of land in Wenham—one lot abutting Alewife Brook, and a second lot in the Great Meadow—we need to keep open the possibility that one or more grants were made to Phineas that went unrecorded. Although the Salem town fathers were typically very diligent about recording land grants at the time grants were made, there are two West Wenham examples later in this chapter (the Spooner Grant and the Osbourne Grant) where this didn't happen. We also need to keep open the possibility that a grant was made to someone other than Phineas (a record of which may still exist, if we knew whose name to research), and that Phineas subsequently purchased this land in the Woods but didn't bother to record the deed.

Despite the uncertainty about when Phineas acquired it, it is clear that by 1665 Phineas owned the land that would become the site of the Kilham House. In that year John Fiske sold a piece of land to brothers Charles Jr. and Daniel Gott that was bounded by “land of Phineas Fiske on the east” and the Danvers-Wenham town line on the west,²⁵ land that straddled proto-Maple Street.²⁶ (John Fiske, whom we briefly met above in the context of Phineas's will, was Phineas's son.) Part of that property was subsequently sold in 1696, and the 1696 deed referred to *Thomas Kilham's* land (no longer Phineas Fiske's land) on the east.²⁷

Sometimes people waited decades to record their deed ... *or didn't bother recording their deed at all.* We'll encounter this phenomenon time and again as we tour the farms of West Wenham.

See Appendix A for a sampling of Wenham deeds that were recorded 30 years or more after the fact, as well as two early Essex County deeds that were never recorded and were lost for nearly three centuries.

25 Essex County Deeds 3:72 (John Fiske to Charles [Jr.] and Daniel Gott, 1665), a transcription of which is in Appendix C.

26 William Richard Cutter, *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs, Relating to the Families of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1908), 2:868; and Rupert B. Lillie, “Houses & Lands Associated with Lord's Hill, 1637–1983, Wenham, Massachusetts” (Wenham, MA: no publisher, 1984), 3, 8, I-A1, I-A5.

27 Essex County Deeds 15:106 (Charles Gott [Jr.] to John Gott, 1696), a transcription of which is in Appendix C.

The 1665 deed, unfortunately, is the only deed that actually refers to the Phineas Fiske Farm, even in the context of an abutter. As for his abutters other than the Gott brothers, we will see later in this chapter that his farm bordered the William Osbourne Farm to the northwest, the Thomas Fiske Jr.

“Proto-Maple Street?”

Before Maple Street was known as “the highway to Danvers” or “the highway to Salem Village” ... before the Thomas Kilham House was built ... there was a cart path in the Woods. We’ll close this chapter with a discussion of the origins of Maple Street.

Farm (which may have been common land at the time) and John Fairfield Farm to the northeast, the Thomas Spooner Farm to the southwest, and common land to the south. But none of the early deeds for these other farms make reference to Phineas.²⁸

Although there’s no deed recorded for Phineas’s West Wenham farm, there is enough historical and physical evidence to map the surrounding farms and thereby assign the Phineas Fiske Farm to the resulting negative space between them. **The farm was roughly rectangular in shape, about 60 acres large, and was bounded by proto-Topsfield Road along the northeast and a glacial terrace along part of the southwest (Figure 1.6). About 17 acres of it were to the southeast of today’s Maple Street.**²⁹

cial terrace along part of the southwest (Figure 1.6). About 17 acres of it were to the southeast of today’s Maple Street.²⁹

Sixty acres, of course, is more than the 50 acres in the Woods that Phineas owned when he died. This means that either (1) the conclusion that his farm was 60 acres large is wrong or (2) he began subdividing the farm before he died. The latter explanation seems more reasonable because—if for the sake of argument we were to say that the farm’s original footprint was 50 acres—we’d have to solve for the anomaly of a ten-acre grant floating island-like in a sea of grants that were no smaller than forty acres.

28 Essex County Deeds 1:36 (Thomas Spooner to John Denman, 1657) and John Denman to Walter Price, 1657); 3:93 (Bezaliel Osbourne, attorney, to [Rev.] Antipas Newman, 1670); 14:269 (John Newman, administrator, to Thomas Fiske Jr., 1682); 18:40 (John Fairfield [3rd] to William Fairfield, 1694), first parcel; and 33:197 (John Fairfield [3rd] *et al.* to Daniel Kilham Jr., 1690).

29 A number of 60-acre grants were made by the town of Salem; see Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):25, 26, 37, 43, 65, 67, 72, 90, 116, 163, 169. But none of these grants seems to have been in West Wenham.

What happened to Phineas's farm? By the 1680s the northwestern part of it had come to be owned by William Fiske Jr. (1643–1728) and the southeastern part had come to be owned by Daniel Kilham Sr. (ca.1620–1700). Neither William nor Daniel recorded his deed.

The William Fiske Jr. Farm

William Fiske Jr., a weaver by trade and a mill owner³⁰ who was referred to in town records and deeds sometimes by his title of deacon and other times by his title of lieutenant, owned a number of properties around West Wenham. We'll encounter him a few times in this chapter as we tour the Maple Street-Cherry Street corridor. One of his properties (Figure 1.7) was approximately 41 acres of the former Phineas Fiske Farm that extended from the southwest side of proto-Topsfield Road to the Thomas Trusler Farm to the south. (Calling this property *the* William Fiske Jr. Farm is a bit of a misnomer, since he owned multiple properties in the neighborhood.) He owned at least some of this property by 1686, when he was mentioned as an abutter in a deed for the contiguous Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm,³¹ but the history of the William Fiske Jr. Farm prior to 1686 is lost.

Part of this farm was a twelve-acre parcel bounded by proto-Topsfield Road that overlapped land in the general area of current-day Meridian Road (shown as Lot A in Figure 1.7).³² By 1710 a house and barn were on this lot,

Continued on p. 20

30 In his 1725 will William Fiske Jr. bequeathed “my Right in the Sawmill Late mine” to his daughter Martha; see Essex County Probate 9522 (William Fisk[e], 1728). That mill hasn't been identified but it's worth noting that Thomas Fiske Sr. had an interest in two Wenham sawmills; see Chapter 2 (Volume 2), footnotes 63 and 64. There's no mill mentioned in Thomas's probate papers (Essex County Probate 9520 (Thomas Fiske, 1707)); is it possible that Thomas conveyed some or all of his interest in a Wenham sawmill to William Fiske Jr.?

31 Essex County Deeds 20:56 (Thomas Fiske [Sr.] to Thomas Fiske [Jr.], 1686).

32 For boundary along proto-Topsfield Road see the 1689 description of the road at Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham, Vol. 2, 1679 to 1731*, MS, unnumbered pages (Ancestry.com, Wenham Town Records, frames 8-9; cited subsequently as “*MS Town Records, Vol. 2*”), transcribed at footnote 224; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1940), 3-5. Given the context of that description, its reference to “the Corner bound Betwine the land of william ffiske Senr & Tho: ffiske Junr” appears to correspond to Boundary Point 2 in Figure B.1, Appendix B. In addition, Essex County Probate 11332 (John Gott [Jr.], 1761), Widow's Thirds (1765), makes it clear that the property had frontage on proto-Topsfield Road.

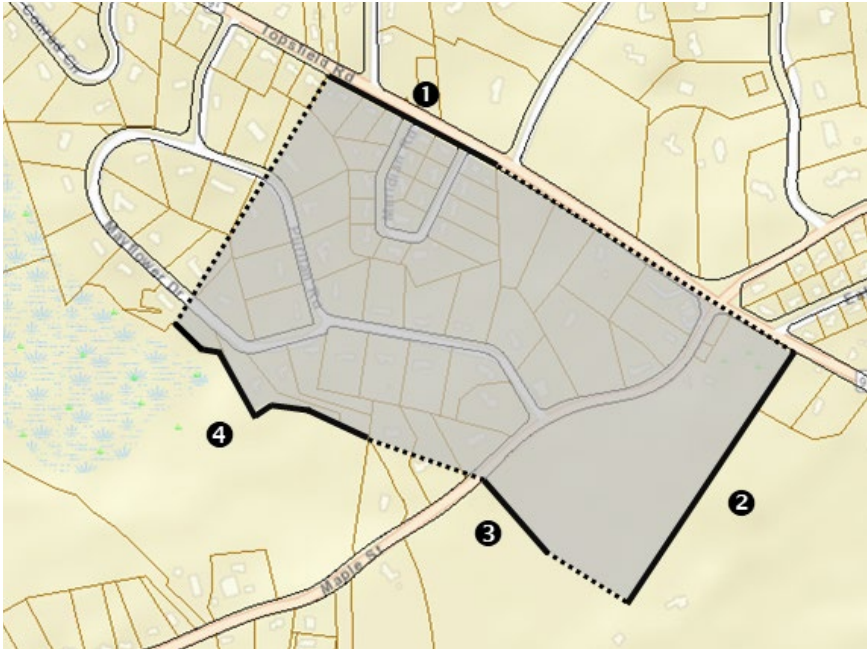


Figure 1.6. The Phineas Fiske Farm, perhaps *ca.*1639.³³

Boundaries

1. Frontage on proto-Topsfield Road is covered in the discussion of the William Fiske Jr. Farm
2. The southeast boundary was articulated in a 1695 description of the abutting Thomas Spooner Farm
3. Part of the southwest boundary abutted Company Lane, which at the time was a road that provided access to town-owned common land on Lord's Hill
4. Part of the southwest boundary was defined by topography and ran along a glacial terrace

³³ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details on the boundaries, see Figure 1.30 and footnote 137; and Figures B.1 and B.5 and their associated discussion in Appendix B.

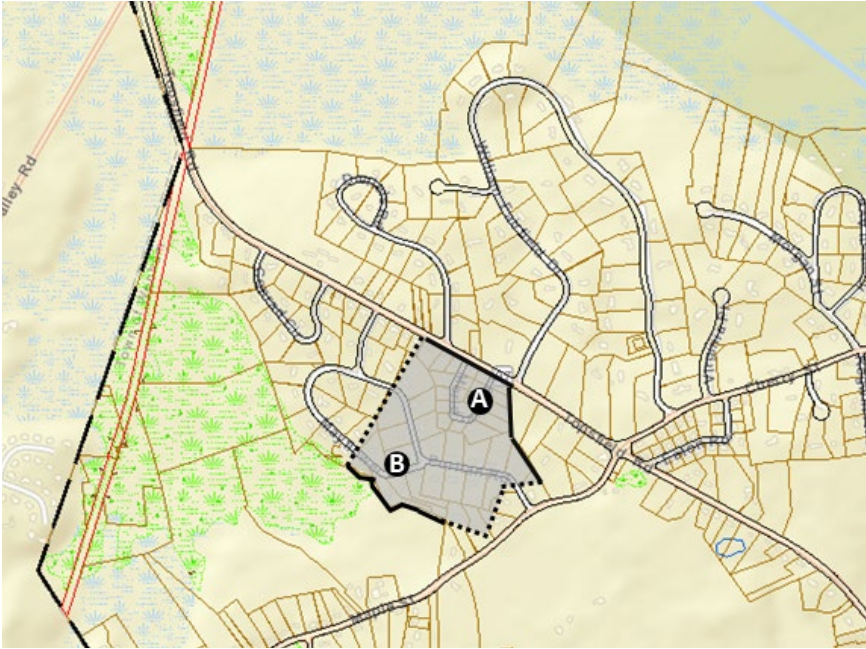


Figure 1.7. The William Fiske Jr. Farm, by 1686. Lot A corresponds to the 12-acre house lot and Lot B corresponds to the 29-acre “missing lot.”³⁴

³⁴ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details, see Appendix B, pages 142-143. It is tempting to propose that much of the boundary between Lot A and Lot B corresponded to the west and southwest boundaries of Elizabeth (Kimball) Gott’s widow’s third (Appendix B, Figure B.2), but there’s insufficient evidence to conclude so.

and William Jr.'s son William Fiske 3rd (1663–1745) had come to own the property. William 3rd didn't record his deed, but it is likely that he received this lot as a wedding present from his father. After all, William Jr. had six sons who married and he conveyed houses to four of them.³⁵ The record of William 3rd's marriage to Marah (maiden name unknown) has been lost but the birth of their son William 4th was recorded in 1695,³⁶ which allows us to hypothesize that William Fiske 3rd built his house about the year 1695. In 1710 William Fiske 3rd sold the house, barn and twelve acres to Lieut. John Gott (1668–1723).³⁷ Lieut. John gave the house to his son John Gott Jr. (ca.1694–1761), who raised his family there. The house burned in 1797 or 1798.³⁸

35 See discussions of the Fiske-Ober House on pages 96-98 (which William Jr. conveyed to his son Benjamin in 1703), the Samuel Fiske (the Weaver) House on page 68 (which William Jr. conveyed to his son Samuel in 1712), the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House on pages 93-96 (which William Jr. conveyed to his son Ebenezer in 1712), and the Theophilus Fiske House on page 99 (which William Jr. conveyed to his son Theophilus in 1712). A fifth son (Joseph) was the exception: Joseph bought a house and farm in Ipswich from Joseph's father-in law; see Essex County Deeds 13:125 (John Warner to Joseph Fiske, 1698).

36 Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 37.

37 Essex County Deeds 23:231 (William Fiske [3rd] to John Gott, 1710). Although this deed identified the seller as "William Fiske Jr.," the seller wasn't William Fiske Jr. (1643–1728) but was actually his son William Fiske 3rd (1663–1745). We can make this identification based on two considerations. First of all, the elder William (b.1643) would not have needed to use the suffix "Jr." in 1710, since his father William Fiske (ca.1614–1654) had died decades earlier. Second of all, William Fiske 3rd (1663–1745) was dismissed from the Wenham Church to the church at Andover, Massachusetts in 1710, and the 1710 sale of land to Lieut. John Gott is consistent with Fiske's move to Andover. See Essex County Deeds 31:82 (Stephen Parker to William Fiske [Jr.] and Thomas Kemball, 1706); 40:174 (William Fiske [Jr.] to William Fiske [3rd], 1722); 48:21 (Samuel Smith to William Fiske [3rd], 1720); 48:22 (William Fiske [3rd] to Ebenezer Fiske, 1726); and 48:23 (William Fiske [3rd] to William Fiske [4th], 1726). See also Pierce (1896), 82; Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1654–1688*, MS (1902), 80 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 391); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 37; William B. Trask, "Records of the Congregational Church in Wenham, Mass.," *NEHGR*, 61 (1907):337; and Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume III, 1662–1667* (Lynn, MA: Thomas P. Nichols & Son Co., 1913), 118.

38 For history of Fiske-Gott House lot, see Essex County Deeds 23:231 (William Fiske [3rd] to John Gott, 1710); 41:17 (John Gott to John Gott [Jr.] and Samuel Gott, 1723); and 49:2 (division of property between John [Jr.] and Samuel Gott, 1724), second moiety. (The 1724 division of property was recorded in a highly-detailed deed, the recorded copy of which has been badly damaged. Much of its content, unfortunately, has been lost.) See Essex County Probate 11332 (John Gott [Jr.], 1761), Widow's Thirds (1765). See Essex County Deeds 123:

But the William Fiske Jr. Farm that abutted proto-Topsfield Road was larger than the twelve acres that William Fiske 3rd sold to Lieut. Gott. Indeed, there was a “missing lot” of about 29 acres (Lot B in Figure 1.7) that has no recorded title history, the existence and size of which are (1) inferred from deeds for abutting properties and (2) consistent with the inventory of Gott Jr.’s assets made when his estate was settled. *Demonstrating the existence and size of this lot—and thereby identifying the footprint of the William Fiske Jr. Farm—is critical to the exercise of siting the Phineas Fiske Farm.*

To detect the lot, we start with deeds for abutting properties, footprints of which are shown in Figure 1.4. In 1696 Charles Gott Jr. (1639–1708) sold fifteen acres of the former Thomas Trusler Farm to his son Lieut. John Gott that abutted both the William Fiske Jr. Farm and the Thomas Kilham Farm to the west. Next, when Thomas Fiske Jr. sold a seven-acre wedge of his land to his abutting neighbor Lieut. John Gott in 1702, its short boundary on the

268 (Nathaniel Gott to Francis Porter, 1777); 135:87 (Elizabeth Gott to Francis Porter, 1777); 141:172 (Francis Porter to John Page, 1784); 154:134 (John Page to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1786); 154:134 (William and Eunice Young to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1791); and 154:134 (Francis Porter to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1792). See Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Widow’s Dower (1813), mention of the “Long Field.” See Essex County Deeds 677:79 (Clarissa Porter to Isaac Porter, 1850); 916:147 (Lydia Batchelder to Betsey B. Gage, 1874); 929:84 (Isaac Porter to Hiram L. Roberts, 1875); 1152:283 (Betsey B. Gage to Hiram L. Roberts, 1885); 1674:262 (Hiram L. Roberts to Emma Weatherbee, 1902), second parcel; 2363:333 (Emma Weatherbee, notice of filing of petition, 1917), first parcel; and 2366:459 (Emma Weatherbee, notice of disposal of petition, 1917). See Essex County Land Court Decree 4880, Case 6305 (Emma Weatherbee, confirmation of title, 1917); Land Court Decree 4890 (John J. and Emma Weatherbee to B. Hammond Tracy, 1917); Land Court Certificate Plan 6305 (1916, 1948, 1950, 1960, 1961 and 1973); and Essex County Deeds Plan 60:12 (“Plan of a Portion of Topsfield Road,” 1931), sheet 4. See also Figure 1.12 for a 1910 map showing the “Mrs. E[mma] Weatherbee” lot.

The description of the fifteen-acre widow’s third set off from John Gott Jr.’s estate (Essex County Probate 11332 [John Gott [Jr.], 1761) allows us to site Gott’s house in the general area of Meridian Road.

By the time of the Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax of 1798, Thomas Kimball Jr. (1756–1810) owned the *sites* of both the Fiske-Gott House and the Thomas Kilham House, but he owned only one house. See “Massachusetts and Maine: Direct Tax, 1798,” online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2003, 6:361. Consistent with the theory that the house was gone by 1798, the 1811 inventory of Kimball’s estate includes just one dwelling house, and the house does not appear on the Hales map of 1825 or the more-accurate Walling map of 1856. See Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Inventory; John G. Hales, *The County of Essex, From Actual Survey* (Boston: J. V. N. Throop, 1825); and Henry Francis Walling, *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Boston: Smith and Morley, 1856).

southwest abutted William Fiske Jr.'s property. Finally, when William Fiske 3rd sold his twelve acres to Lieut. Gott in 1710, that deed described the land as abutting another piece of land already belonging to Gott to the west. Thus, the scenario that reconciles the various abutting properties in the 1696, 1702 and 1710 deeds is the presence of a lot between the Osbourne Farm (Figure 1.4, Farm E) and William Fiske 3rd's twelve acres, a lot that was conveyed by William Fiske Jr. (or possibly William Fiske 3rd) to Lieut. Gott sometime between 1702 and 1710.³⁹

Turning our attention from early deeds to early probate, the inventory of John Gott Jr.'s estate says that his homestead was 51 acres large.⁴⁰ When one accounts for the three-acre lot that Gott owned in Leach's Swamp⁴¹ and his Seven-Acre Lot that is otherwise accounted for in the footprint of the William Osbourne Farm,⁴² that leaves 41 acres. Those 41 acres consisted of the 12-acre Fiske-Gott House lot and the 29-acre "missing lot."

39 Essex County Deeds 15:106 (Charles Gott [Jr.] to John Gott, 1696), a transcription of which is in Appendix C; 15:205 (Thomas Fiske Jr. to John Gott, 1702); and 23:231 (William Fiske [3rd] to John Gott, 1710).

Oh, the frustration! This means that William Fiske Jr. didn't record his deed (which, actually, would not have been inconsistent with his behavior). But it also means that this lot was subsequently sold to Thomas Tarbox (the abutter mentioned in Essex County Deeds 56:265 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to John Gott [Jr.], 1730), first parcel), who seems to have owned the land in this location—and that Tarbox didn't record *his* deed. Further, it would mean that this lot was then sold to John Gott Jr. (the abutter mentioned in Essex County Deeds 123:133 (Jonathan Kimball [Jr.] to Thomas Kimball [Sr.], 1762))—and that Gott didn't record *his* deed either. Three unrecorded deeds for the same property! Still, it's not unheard-of that multiple owners of the same property decided not to record their respective deeds; see Appendix A for an example where multiple transactions were documented on the same (unrecorded) piece of paper.

40 Essex County Probate 11332 (John Gott [Jr.], 1761), Inventory.

41 Three acres of swamp woodland at the southwest corner of the homestead were assigned to Gott's widow Elizabeth as part of her widow's third. This lot apparently abutted the Dodge-Herrick-Conant Lot discussed in the Leach's Swamp section of Appendix B, pages 153-154.

42 See the discussion of John Gott Jr.'s Seven-Acre Lot in the William Osbourne Farm section of Appendix B, page 166.

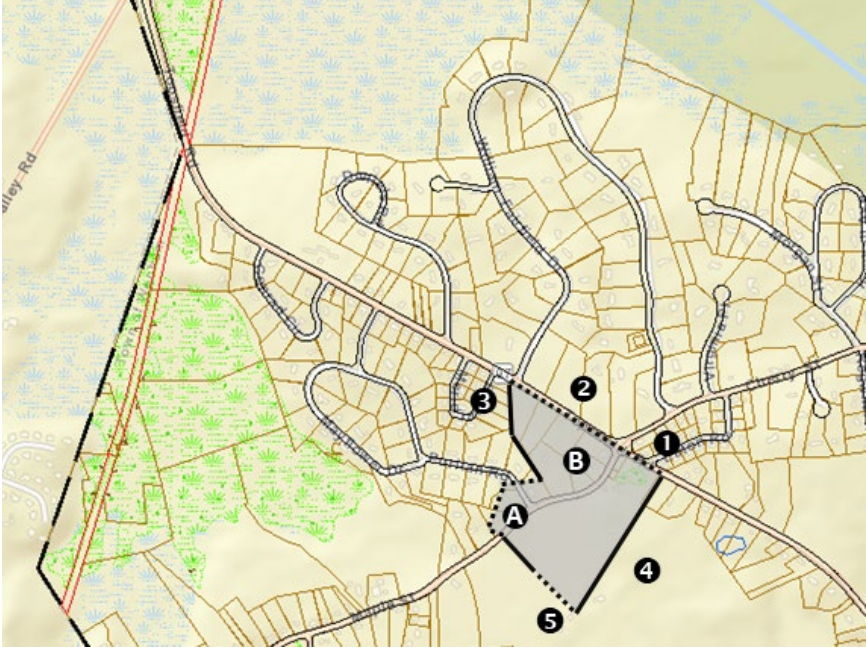


Figure 1.8. The Daniel Kilham Sr. Farm, by 1686.⁴³

Abutters Identified in the 1688 Deed

1. Abutting lot that was owned by the Fairfield family but rented by Samuel Fiske (the tailor) by 1684
2. Abutting lot that was part-owned by William Fairfield
3. The William Fiske Jr. Farm
4. The John Porter Farm, *i.e.*, the former Thomas Spooner Farm
5. Northernmost portion of the Lord's Hill Commons

Subdivisions

- A. To Thomas Kilham, by 1686
- B. To John Gilbert and Daniel Kilham Jr., 1688

⁴³ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. Essex County Deeds 8:108 (Daniel Kilham to John Gilbert and Daniel Kilham Jr., 1688), second parcel, a transcription of which is in Appendix C. We will see in Chapter 2 (Volume 2) that Thomas Kilham was living on this site by 1686.

The Daniel Kilham Sr. Farm

Daniel Kilham Sr. (ca.1620–1700) bought the other portion of the Phineas Fiske Farm, worked it for perhaps as much as fifteen or twenty years, and—in an act of estate planning in his late 60s—conveyed the land to two of his sons and a son-in-law in the 1680s. Daniel Sr. split the property into two parcels. The first he conveyed to his son Thomas Kilham (ca.1653–1725); the second he conveyed to his son Daniel Jr. (1649–1734) and son-in-law John Gilbert (ca.1656–1723).

We will learn more about Daniel Sr. and Thomas in Chapter 2 (Volume 2), and will see that Thomas was living on this site by 1686. His lot seems to have been on the order of six acres,⁴⁴ with the house very near to the northern boundary⁴⁵ and the lot straddling both sides of proto-Maple Street.⁴⁶

The second parcel—east of Thomas’s land and straddling both sides of proto-Maple Street—was conveyed by Daniel Sr. to Daniel Jr. and John in 1688.⁴⁷ Daniel Jr. and John didn’t keep the land very long: They immediately sold the part of it south of proto-Maple Street to Samuel Fiske (the tailor), and a few years later sold the part of it north of proto-Maple Street to William Fairfield. Each of these transactions merits some attention here.

Continued on p. 28

44 In 1767 Josiah Fairfield mortgaged 40 of his 46 acres, “being all [his] Lands to Southward of the highway that leads to Danvers.” See Essex County Deeds 121:131 (Josiah Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, 1767); 126:217 (Benjamin Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1767); and 125:143 (Josiah Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, mortgage, 1767), transcriptions of which are in Appendix C. Thus, the six-acre difference was land to the north of proto-Maple Street.

45 Essex County Deeds 70:75 (William Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1725), a transcription of which is in Appendix C, a deed that describes the Thomas Kilham House lot at the time of *just two acres* abutting John Gott Jr.’s land to the north.

46 Essex County Deeds 89:248 (Jonathan Dodge to Josiah Fairfield, 1747), first parcel, describes a lot that abutted Porter’s Road to the east and land of Josiah Fairfield to the north and west. Prior title history of the lot is lost, but it appears to have been part of the land that Daniel Kilham Jr. and John Gilbert sold to Samuel Fiske (the tailor) in 1688 or 1689. Because the northern boundary *isn’t* described as proto-Maple Street, it appears that the lot to the north was part of the Thomas Kilham House lot that Thomas had sold to William Fairfield in 1701.

47 For Daniel Jr.’s and John’s parcel, see Essex County Deeds 8:108 (Daniel Kilham to John Gilbert and Daniel Kilham Jr., 1688), second parcel, a transcription of which is in Appendix C. According to Daniel Jr.’s and John’s deed, Thomas Kilham was already an abutter. Thomas, however, didn’t record his own deed.



Figure 1.9. Field to the south of Maple Street, opposite the Thomas Kilham House. Photographed from Company Lane looking east, this is the northern of the two parcels shaded in Figure 1.11. This parcel and the contiguous parcel immediately to the south have been associated with the Porter-Crowninshield House since 1798 but were originally part of the Phineas Fiske Farm. Some portion of this land was associated with the Thomas Kilham House.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ December 27, 2014 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.



Figure 1.10. View from the master bedroom of the Thomas Kilham House. The current-day forsythia hedge along Maple Street provides a visual barrier. But with the foliage gone, it's easier to appreciate how the house used to relate to its landscape south of the road.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ November 29, 2019 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran.

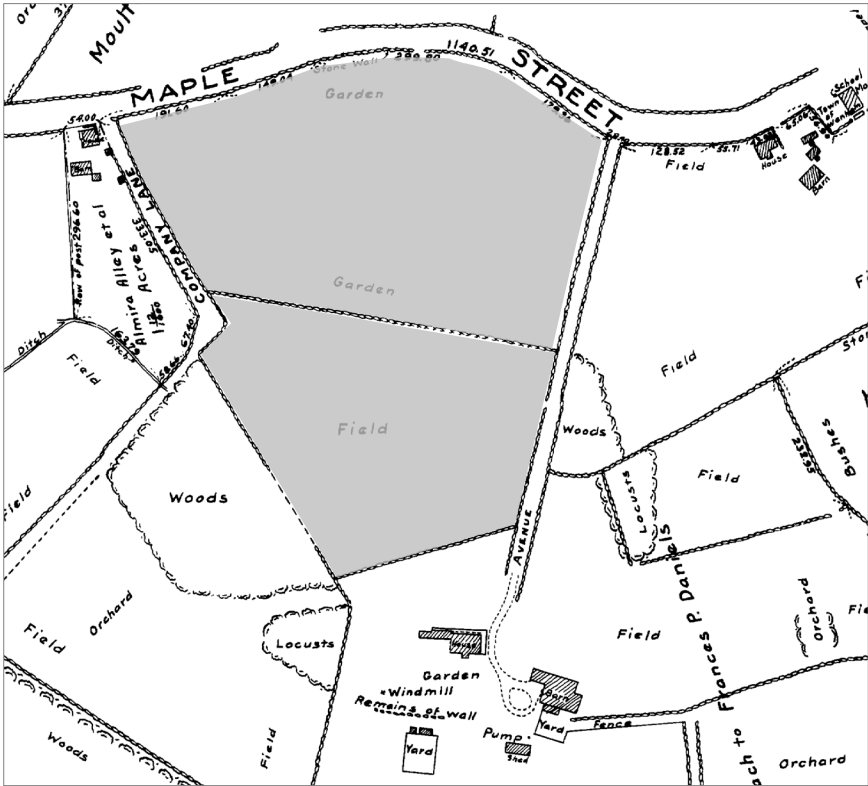


Figure 1.11. Properties to the south of Maple Street, 1910. This map shows stone walls along Maple Street, Company Lane, Porter's Road (labeled as "Avenue") and adjacent parcels. Some of this land was Thomas Kilham's, and the rest was owned jointly by Daniel Kilham Jr. and John Gilbert. Unfortunately, there's insufficient evidence in recorded deeds to propose a boundary between Thomas's land and Daniel's and John's.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 ("Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham," 1910); shading added. For history of the property, see the discussion of the Southwest Lot in the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm section of Appendix B, pages 149-150.

Samuel Fiske (ca.1645–1716) was a brother of William Fiske Jr., whose farm we just discussed. He was a tailor, and served the town as surveyor of highways and constable.⁵¹ He owned a farm that was elongated in shape and stretched along the southern side of current-day Maple and Cherry Streets. But it was a next-generation farm: He bought subdivisions of earlier farms, doing so in multiple transactions. Samuel wasn't especially diligent about recording his deeds, though, so we're left with an incomplete view of how he pieced together the farm.⁵² We know that he was renting land south of proto-Cherry Street by 1684.⁵³ We can assume he bought his house site from Kilham Jr. and Gilbert almost immediately after Kilham Sr. sold them their land because Fiske built his house by 1689.⁵⁴ (The house stood where the one at 7 Maple Street stands today, the current structure having been built after Samuel's house burned in 1973. Of "Cape Cod" form, it was one and a half

51 Fiske (1867), 191; Perley, "Wenham" (1888), 1245; Pierce (1896), 56-57, 70-71; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 75, 88. Samuel's death on October 31, 1716 was recorded in Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham: Births, Marriages & Intentions of Marriages & Deaths, 1695–1743*, MS, 19 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 30; cited subsequently as "*MS Vital Records, 1695–1743*, MS"), but was omitted from Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904).

Samuel Fiske (ca.1645–1716) the tailor, Samuel Fiske (1670–after 1725) the weaver, and Samuel Fiske (1660–after 1703) the carpenter, contemporary residents of Wenham, were three different men; see Figure 1.13. Samuel the tailor lived at current-day 7 Maple Street; Samuel the weaver lived in the current-day neighborhood of 23-33 William Fairfield Drive; and Samuel the carpenter lived near the current-day Wenham Pines development, on land that used to belong to his grandfather Phineas Fiske. Adding to the genealogical challenge: Samuel the tailor had a son Samuel Jr. (? –1719).

52 Essex County Deeds 15:63 (Thomas Kilham to William Fairfield, 1701) and 19:88 (Nicholas Rich and Peter Thomson to Joseph and John Herrick, 1697) make reference to a parcel that was apparently part of the southern portion of the former Thomas Trusler Farm that was owned by a Samuel Fiske. This was probably Samuel Fiske the carpenter, however, since the Trusler Farm was previously owned by the carpenter's father John Fiske (bp.1627–1683).

53 Lots A1, A2 and B in Figure B.3 in Appendix B.

54 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 3-4, in which reference is made to the house in the laying-out of town-maintained highways in West Wenham.

Samuel received two timber grants from the town for boards and shingles, one in 1696 (to Samuel Fiske the "taylor") and the other in 1700 (to Samuel Fiske Sr.), but neither grant indicated whether the material was for a house or a barn; see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 177. Essex County Deeds 11:106 (Elizabeth Endicott and John Newman, administrators, to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix, 1692) confirms unequivocally that Samuel Fiske the tailor and "Samuel Fisk Sr." were the same man.

stories tall, with central chimney, and two rooms on each of the first and second floors.⁵⁵) Finally, Samuel and his half-brother Theophilus Rix (bp.1665–1726) expanded further along proto-Cherry Street, in two transactions in and after 1692.⁵⁶ Samuel gave the western portion of his farm—including his house and land south of proto-Maple Street—to his son Daniel Fiske (? –1761) in 1716. Daniel, in turn, lived on his late father's farm just over 30 years before he sold it and moved to Upton, Massachusetts.⁵⁷

The land that Kilham Jr. and Gilbert sold to Samuel Fiske was south of proto-Maple Street. As for their land *north* of the road, William Fairfield (1663–1742) bought it soon after 1694 and incorporated it into his abutting farm. Corresponding to the “A. R. Bowden” lot in Figure 1.12, a stone wall—sections of which remain today—marked its western boundary.⁵⁸

55 Lillie, “Houses & Lands Associated with Lord’s Hill” (1984), 33-34, citing a description by the last owner of the house (Mary Ann Streeter).

56 For more information on boundaries and history, see Lots A1 and A2 in the discussion of the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm in Appendix B, pages 145-146.

57 For boundaries and history of the house lot, see the discussion of the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm in Appendix B, pages 147-149.

58 A remaining stretch of the wall can be seen from Maple Street, between 16 Maple Street and 2 Puritan Road; another stretch can be seen from Topsfield Road, to the south of 169 Meridian Road. The wall is mapped in Essex County Deeds Plan 79:50 (“Subdivision Plan of Land Belonging to Loreen C. Bromley, Wenham, Mass.,” 1950); and Plan 1961:741 (“Plan of Land Owned by Loreen C. Bromley, Wenham, Mass.,” 1961).

Unfortunately—and uncharacteristic of William—Fairfield didn’t record his deed. But see Essex County Deeds 18:40 (John Fairfield [3^d] to William Fairfield, 1694), for William’s purchase of a 60-acre parcel of his grandfather’s West Wenham farm, in which deed Daniel Kilham [Jr.] is identified as the abutter to the southwest. For subsequent history of the lot, see Essex County Deeds 84:121 (William Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, 1738); 147:154 (Benjamin Fairfield to Samuel and Joseph Fairfield, 1780); 152:69, 158 (Joseph Fairfield *vs.* Samuel Fairfield, 1790), fifteen-acre parcel; 162:164 (Joseph Fairfield to [Rev.] John Fairfield, 1797); 164:103 (Samuel Fairfield to Joseph Fairfield, 1798); 191:242 (Rev. John Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield *et al.*, 1811); 191:242 (Benjamin Fairfield *et al.* to David Woodbury, 1811); 191:243 (David Woodbury to Rev. John Fairfield, 1811); 232:175 (Ichabod Fairfield *et al.* to David Woodbury, 1823); 232:280 (David Woodbury to Mark Symons, mortgage, 1823); 525:165 (Sarah Woodbury, administratrix, to Mark Symons, 1855); 525:166 (Mark Symons to B[enjamin] C. and J[ohn] A. Putnam, 1856); 530:76 (Benjamin C. and John A. Putnam to Samuel S. and Stephen Cook, 1856), ten acres; 534:237 (Samuel S. and Stephen Cook to Benjamin C. and John A. Putnam, mortgage, 1856); 719:175 (Samuel S. and Stephen Cook to Daniel H. Peabody, 1861); 620:176 (Daniel H. Peabody to Martha S. Putnam, mortgage, 1861); 723:97 (Martha S. Putnam to Almon F. Bagley, 1867); 1110:90 (Charles W. Bagley to Louisa R. Bagley, 1883); 1227:480 (Louisa R. Bagley *et al.* to George V. Bowden, 1888); 2297:299 (George V. Bowden to Nancy E. Bowden, 1915); 2732:1 (Nancy E. Bowden to Charles B. [sic] Keach,

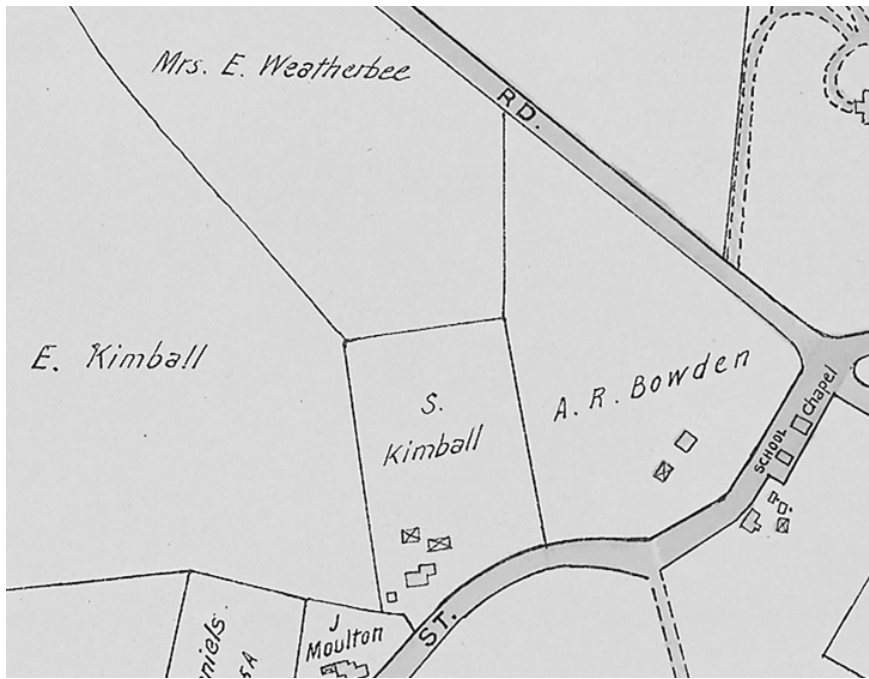


Figure 1.12. The Solomon Kimball lot (site of the Thomas Kilham House and associated outbuildings) and the Andrew R. Bowden lot, 1910. Solomon E. Kimball (1830–1924) owned the Thomas Kilham House from 1845 to 1924.⁵⁹

1927); 2815:474 (Charles R. Keach to Martin McKillick, 1929); 2998:9 (Martin McKillick to William G. Bromley, 1934); and 3178:292 (William G. Bromley to Loreen C. Bromley, 1939). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 1957:140 (“Plan of Land Belonging to Loreen C. Bromley, Wenham, Mass.,” 1957). Andrew R. Bowden (the “A. R. Bowden” in Figure 1.12) was a son of George V. and Nancy E. Bowden, owners of the property between 1888 and 1927.

⁵⁹ *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), plate 34.

NEIGHBORING FARMS IN WEST WENHAM

We turn our attention now to the other farms on the Maple Street-Cherry Street corridor west of “the Straits,” the traditional gateway to the west end of town.⁶⁰ We’re going to take a tour these farms, making note of two things along the way. First, we’ll see that—although some of the neighborhood’s original land grants are no longer traceable—those grants that *can* be pinpointed were made in 1639. **That makes it very likely that the grant that would become the Phineas Fiske Farm was also made at that time, which adds support to the hypothesis that the grantee could have been someone other than Phineas.** Second, although the Thomas Kilham House is a rare survivor today, the Kilhams weren’t living in the Woods alone. **We’ll see that there were seven or eight other houses that had been built nearby before the Kilhams built theirs.**⁶¹ And we’ll see that

60 The Straits was “the wooded hollow between Pleasant Street and the Audubon property on Cherry Street” between Muddy Pond to the north and Cedar Pond to the south; see Wenham Historical Association & Museum, *Wenham in Pictures and Prose* (Wenham, MA: Wenham Historical Association & Museum, Inc., 1992), 137. See also John C. Phillips, *Wenham Great Pond* (Salem, MA: Peabody Museum, 1938), 107.

The earliest mention of the Straits in town records is from 1692, when “Inhabitants of the Towne Westerly of the Straights” petitioned to be excused from having to maintain roads elsewhere in town; see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 99. For additional early references to the Straits, see *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 142, 158, 167, 179; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1940), 41, 43. Further research is needed to determine when the place name fell out of use, although it was still in use as late as the 1910s; see Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Wenham, and the Reports of the School Committee and Trustees of the Public Library for the Year Ending December 31, 1915* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, Printers, 1916), 57. Interestingly, a deed from 1730 used “the Straits” to refer to the *road* that passed through area, not the area itself. See Essex County Deeds 57:130 (Ebenezer Fiske to Nathaniel Brown Jr., 1730). See also Essex County Deeds 73:229 (Nathaniel Brown [Jr.] to Joseph Batchelder, 1736[/?]), a deed that described the same parcel as that in the 1730 deed, and duplicated language from the 1730 deed.

Early references to “the west end” of town appear in Essex County Deeds 112:84 (Benjamin Trow to Jonathan Kimball Jr., 1750), and 158:178 (Thomas Kimball [Sr.] to Nathaniel Kimball, 1793). Further research may uncover additional references.

61 Our tour arbitrarily ignores nearby housing on Wenham Street, right over the town line in Danvers. Our tour also ignores West Wenham housing built on farms that weren’t along the Maple Street-Cherry Street corridor—*i.e.*, the Herrick Farm near the Beverly Airport, the Cue Farm and the Kimball Farm on Lord’s Hill, and the Friend Farm on the southern part of Topsfield Road and Cedar Street.

these houses were built in three waves of construction, each of which coincided with a different phase of population growth.

We've already met a few members of the Fiske family, and we're going to encounter them and others on our tour; the Fiske family tree (Figure 1.13)⁶² will help keep track of who was who. Unfortunately though, the early Fiskes weren't always diligent about recording their deeds: We're going to encounter some annoying gaps in our story as we take our tour.

Although not all seventeenth-century boundaries are still identifiable, *some* of today's property boundaries date back to the 1600s. Nineteenth-century stone walls and topographical features help to narrow the search.

We'll discover Flint Street. Now abandoned, today's hiking trail through the woods, Flint Street (Figure 1.14) used to be the road connecting Wenham with North Beverly. (Indeed, the portion of Topsfield Road that runs from the Maple Street-Cherry Street intersection to 76 Topsfield Road wasn't a town-

maintained road until the 1830s.)

As we tour the Maple Street-Cherry Street corridor we'll map the original grants. Identifying boundaries of seventeenth-century farms is based on the premise that—although not all seventeenth-century boundaries are still identifiable—*some* of today's property lines date back to the 1600s. The exercise, then, is to filter-out twentieth- and nineteenth-century boundaries to find the farms that were owned by the seventeenth-century grantees' grandchildren

62 Town of Wenham, "MS Vital Records, 1695–1743, MS, 11, 19 and unnumbered pages (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frames 20, 30, 42, 48, 50); Fiske (1867), 185, 190-191, 205-208; Alfred Poor, "William Fiske, of Wenham, Mass.," *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute*, 8 (1868):175-178; Pierce (1896), 39-40, 46-57, 61-66, 69-71, 77-78, 82-86; Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1654–1688*, MS (1902), 85 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 395); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 198; Guy S. Rix, *History and Genealogy of the Rix Family of America* (New York: The Grafton Press, 1906), 1-2, 7; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1914), 389; Moriarty (1934), 265-267, 270-273; Donna Holt Siemiakowski, "The Connecticut Valley Family of Little Miss 1565," *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, 27 (1994):17; and Myrtle Stevens Hyde, "A Re-Examination of the Fiske Families of Suffolk, England, Ancestral to Some Early New England Families," *NEHGR*, 170 (2016):225, 345-346.

and great-grandchildren. Nineteenth-century stone walls as well as topographical features help to narrow the search. Stone walls, because some of them align with property descriptions in early deeds and town records. Topographical features, because sometimes they became landmarks for the 1630s surveyor. The exercise is complicated, however, by the facts that (1) Maple Street, Cherry Street and Topsfield Road have been widened over time and their courses shifted in some places,⁶³ (2) some early boundaries were modified at a subsequent-but-still-early date when neighbors decided they wanted to straighten their property lines,⁶⁴ and (3) sometimes two different surveyors came up with different answers when measuring the same lot.⁶⁵

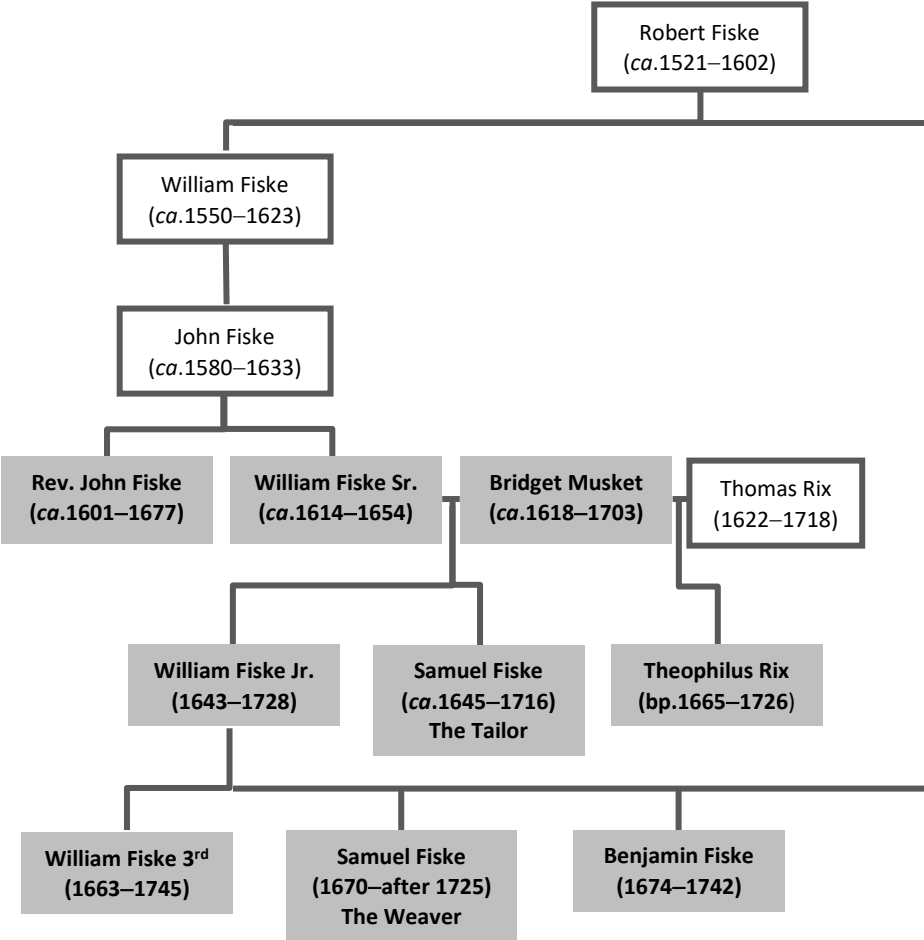
We start at the Danvers town line and make our way east along Maple Street and Cherry Street. After we tour these farms we'll wrap things up with a discussion of the origin of Maple Street.

63 The Topsfield Road project of 1931–1938, Cherry Street project of 1934, and Maple Street project of 1941 are especially relevant.

64 Examples include Essex County Deeds 56:188 (exchange of land between John Kimball and Thomas Howe [Jr.] and Rebecca Fiske, 1726); and 79:157 (exchange of land between William Fairfield and Daniel Fiske, 1737).

65 In 1715 Jonathan Moulton's "one"-acre orchard was measured at 15 rods west-east by 12 rods north-south. In 1802 the same orchard was measured at 16 rods north-south, with a northern boundary of 13 rods and a southern boundary of 14½ rods. Admittedly a very small-scale example, and both answers round to "about one acre," but the two measurements differ by roughly 22%. And somehow a parallelogram became a trapezoid—perhaps because of surveyor error or perhaps instead because of an organic shift in the use of the land. See Essex County Deeds 65:90 (John and Jonathan Moulton's division of property, 1715), third division; and Essex County Probate 19028 (Jonathan Moulton, 1801), Widow's Dower (1802).

Figure 1.13. Fiske family tree. Shading denotes Wenham residents.



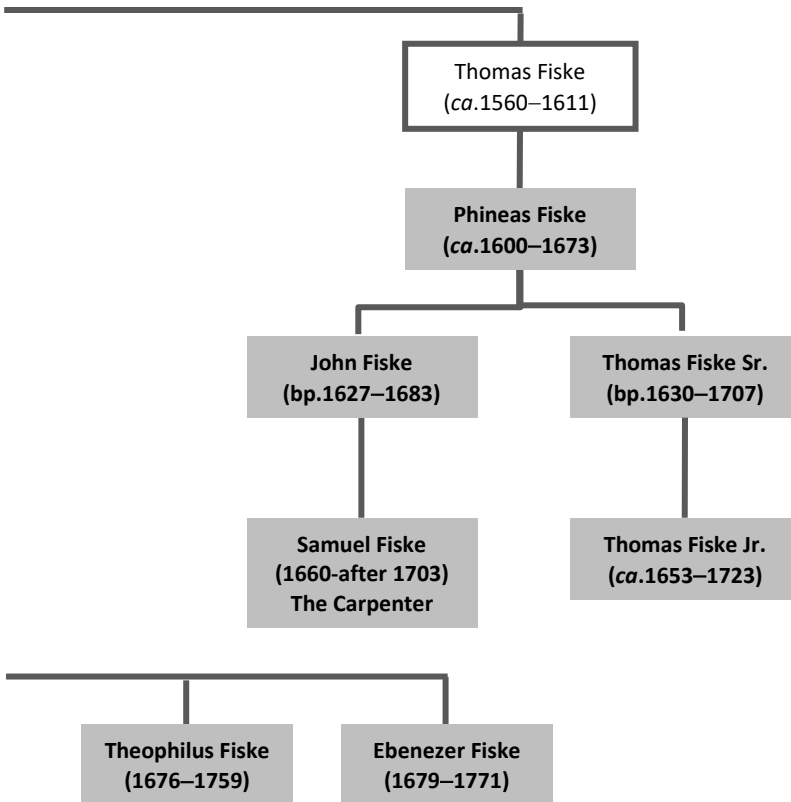




Figure 1.14. The highway to Beverly. Flint Street (in the center of this map) and the southern portion of Bomer Street (now part of Topsfield Road) followed the course of the highway to Beverly set out in 1689. Flint Street intersected Cherry Street where Stage Hill Road does today. The portion of Bomer Street between Flint Street and the Maple/Cherry Street intersection—providing a more direct route between Beverly and Topsfield—was laid out as a town-maintained road in 1835. A secondary road by the time this map was made, Flint Street was discontinued in 1954.⁶⁶

⁶⁶ *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), plate 34.

Leach's Meadow

Figure 1.4, Farm B

Seventeenth-century surveyors could be pretty precise. One example is when the town fathers laid out the boundary between Wenham (then part of Salem) and Hamilton (then part of Ipswich) in 1643. Somebody drew an imaginary line connecting the Ipswich Meeting House with the Salem Meeting House a dozen miles away ... determined that the line wasn't due north-south, but was at an angle of half a compass point (or $5\frac{5}{8}$ degrees) to the northeast-southwest ... then drew a second imaginary line bisecting the first at a right angle, and deemed this second line ($5\frac{5}{8}$ degrees askew of horizontal) as the new town line.⁶⁷ But when surveyors weren't precise with their boundaries or accurate with their measurements, confusion ensued. Such was the case with Leach's Meadow.

Lawrence Leach (ca.1577–1662) married Elizabeth Mileham at Hurst, Berkshire, England in 1606. They were among the earliest settlers of Salem, having sailed in a fleet of three Puritan ships that arrived there in 1629. He was active in church and civic affairs, and owned a gristmill on the Bass River near current-day Elliott Street in Beverly.⁶⁸

For the 1835 street construction project, see Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1810–1835* (Andover, MA: Town Printing, Inc., 1977), 85, 114, 126, 128, 132, 133, 138, 139, 145. For discontinuance of Flint Street, see Town of Wenham, *Annual Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Wenham, Including the Reports of the School Committee and Trustees of the Public Library, For the Year Ending December 31, 1954* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss Co., 1955), 75.

For a map showing the orientation of Stage Hill Road vis-à-vis Flint Street, see Essex County Deeds Plan 197:55 ("Definitive Subdivision Plan of Stage Hill Estates in Wenham, Mass.," 1985). For a map showing the intersection of Flint Street with Topsfield Road (near 76 Topsfield Road), see Essex County Deeds Plan 2606:1 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Mass.," 1924).

67 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 62; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 119; and George A. Schofield, ed., *The Ancient Records of the Town of Ipswich, Vol. 1, From 1634 to 1650* (Ipswich, MA: Chronicle Motor Press, 1899), 97.

68 Edwin W. Stone, *History of Beverly, Civil and Ecclesiastical, From Its Settlement in 1630 to 1842* (Boston: James Munroe and Company, 1843), 29; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):207; Perley, "Rial Side" (1920), 40–41, 46; F. Phelps Leach, *Lawrence Leach of Salem, Massachusetts, and Some of His Descendants* (St. Albans, VT: The Messenger Press, 1924), 1:3–4; Perley, *History of Salem*, 1 (1924):118–119, 197; Alice Gertrude Lapham, *The Old Planters of Beverly in Massachusetts and The Thousand Acre Grant of 1635* (Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1930), 54–55; Calvin P. Pierce, *Ryal Side From Early Days of Salem Colony* (Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1931), 24–29; Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620–1633* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995), 2:1161–1164; and

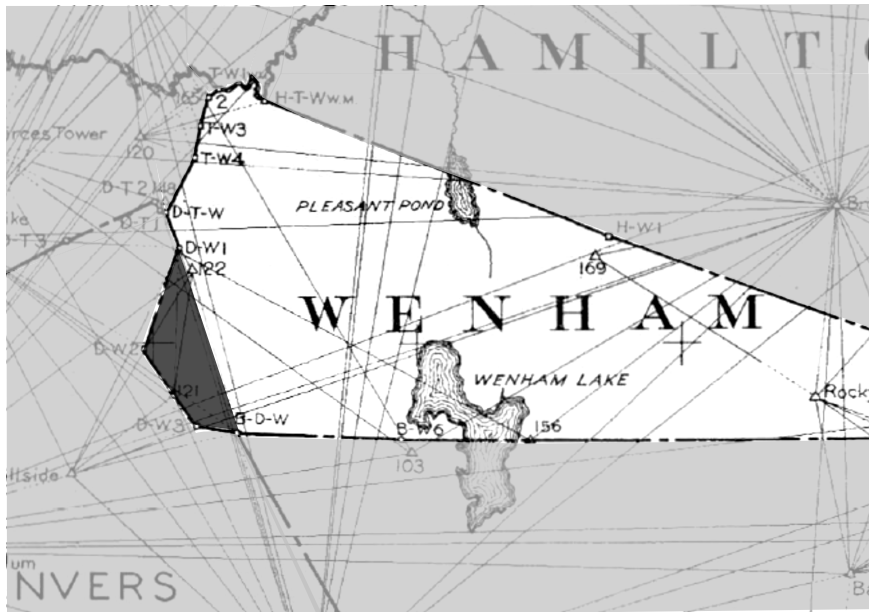


Figure 1.15. Reassignment of land from Danvers to Wenham, 1681. The old town line was along the right (east) side of the darkly-shaded area; the revised town line was—and still is—along the other three sides. The southeast corner of the darkly-shaded area (marked “B-D-W”) is the point where Beverly, Danvers and Wenham meet, described in footnote 72. The northernmost corner (marked “D-W1”) corresponds to the southern end of the Wenham Causeway.⁶⁹

Robert F. Henderson and James R. Henderson, “English Origins of Lawrence Leach of Salem, Massachusetts,” *NEHGR*, 162 (2008):98-100.

⁶⁹ Map from Commonwealth of Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission, *Atlas of the Boundaries of the Cities of Gloucester and Newburyport and Towns of ... Wenham* (1905), State Library of Massachusetts, Folio 1; shading added. For the 1679 description of the original boundary between Wenham and Salem Village (Danvers), see Shurtleff, *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Vol. V, 1674–1686* (Boston: Press of William White, 1854), 224; and City of Beverly, *City Documents for 1895* (Beverly, MA: City Job Print, 1896), 250. See also Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 59-60, 110,

Lawrence and his two sons Robert (bp.1614– ?) and John (bp.1616– ?) received grants of land from the town of Salem for meadowland that was adjacent to the Danvers-Wenham town line. (The fact that it was *meadowland* as early as the time of the Puritans' arrival gives a clue as to the western limit of the Woods of West Wenham.) Lawrence received fifteen acres in 1639,⁷⁰ while sons Robert and John received a total of 70 acres the same year.⁷¹ The Leach family's property included an expanse of open space known as Leach's Meadow,⁷² as well as part of Birch Plains, and was thought to be in Danvers.

184 (perambulations of 1681, 1694 and 1700, respectively); Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 17–18 (1681 perambulation); Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (Topsfield, MA: The Perkins Press, 1938), 70–71, 123, 173–174, 186 (perambulations of 1712, 1715, 1721 and 1724, respectively).

70 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 50; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 96. *Town Records of Salem* gives the erroneous impression that this grant was made May 7, 1638, but *Book of Grants* clearly shows that the grant was made December 23, 1639.

Although the *Book of Grants* doesn't say where Leach's 1639 grant was actually located, the grant was for fifteen acres of meadow—and the 1662 inventory of his estate included “15 acres of meadow neare John Porters farme bought of Mr. Downing.” See Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume I, 1635–1664* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1916), 388–389; and Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 2 (1912):428–429. For location abutting John Porter's farm in Danvers, see Essex County Deeds 4:161 (Emanuel Downing to John Porter, 1650). See also Upham, 1 (1867):xxvii; Porter, (1878), 230–231, citing the 1664 marriage contract between Sergt. John Porter (1596–1676) and William Hathorne, Essex County Deeds 3:139; and Ezra D. Hines, “No. 10 Downing Street,” *Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society*, 9 (1921):4.

Lawrence also received a grant of 100 acres at Leach's Hill (subsequently known as Folly Hill), south of Conant Street, Danvers. See Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 15, 17, 43; Upham, 1 (1867):xxvii (farm #11, house #100); Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 19, 26, 27, 37; and Perley, “Rial Side” (1920), 34, 35.

71 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 43; Essex County Deeds 7:47 (John Leach Sr. to the Town of Salem, 1685), and 16:25 (John Leach Sr. to Edward Whittington, 1686); and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):23, 76, 88.

72 The earliest documented reference to Leach's Meadow is a 1659 reference to “the swampe that Runeth out of Laurence Leech Meadow wher [*sic*] it will meet with Wenham Line.” This reference was in the context of a description of the boundaries of the parish that would become the town of Beverly. See Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem, Massachusetts, Volume II (1659–1680)* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1913), 2–3. For 1679 descriptions of the Beverly boundaries that leverage the 1659 text, see also Shurtleff, 5 (1854), 223–224; City of Beverly (1896), 249–251; and Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 3 (1913), 20.

The “swampe that Runeth out of Laurence Leech Meadow” was south or southeast of Leach's Meadow, and is not to be confused with Leach's Swamp (which was north of Leach's

But some 40 years later, as land grants became subdivided, questions arose as to the actual location of the town line. By 1681 it was determined that some 280 acres—including part of Leach's Meadow and a tract of common land—were really in Wenham, and the town line was moved westward (Figure 1.15).⁷³

Lawrence's son John Leach Sr. lived near Leach's Hill (current-day Folly Hill) in Danvers. But by 1675 John's son John Leach Jr. (bp.1648–1717?) was living in the part of Leach's Meadow that was reassigned to Wenham. John Jr. owned land on both sides of current-day Maple Street, his house being in the vicinity of 88 Maple Street. The house was apparently gone by the time of a 1794 deed recording the sale of the surrounding property, although its cellar hole was still visible at the turn of the last century.⁷⁴

Meadow). The stump of a pine tree near this swamp was designated as a corner boundary of the town of Beverly; that point is where the three towns of Beverly, Danvers and Wenham meet today. See Commonwealth of Massachusetts Topographical Survey Commission, *Atlas of the Boundaries of the City of Beverly* (1898), State Library of Massachusetts, sheets A, C, 1, 5, 6, 9; Commonwealth of Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission (1905), Folios T, 16, 17; and "U.S. Historic Survey Stones and Monuments," Waymarking.com/waymarks/WM6Y7A (Seattle, WA: Groundspeak, 2021).

The "swampe that Runeth out of Laurence Leech Meadow" drains into Birch Plains Brook (also known as Thirty-Acre Brook), to the south of Lord's Hill, in North Beverly.

73 Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume VIII, 1680–1683* (Lynn, MA: Thomas P. Nichols & Son Co., 1921), 21; Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 59–60, 110, 130–131, 184; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem, Massachusetts, Volume III (1680–1691)* (Salem, MA: Essex Institute, 1934), 38, 57; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 17–18.

Technically speaking, the town line that was moved was the Salem-Wenham town line: Danvers (known at the time as Salem Village) was part of the town of Salem until 1752.

74 For more information on John Leach Sr. and John Leach Jr., including citations for deeds and other references, see Appendix G.

For location of the farm on both sides of Maple Street, see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 18–19. For subsequent history of the John Leach Jr. homestead, see Essex County Deeds 30:144 (John [Jr.] and Mary Leach to Richard Leach, 1715); 59:119 (Hannah Leach to John Leach, 1732); 59:120 (Mary Leach to John Leach, 1731); 60:62 (John Leach *et al.* to Samuel Gott, 1731[2]); 81:18 (John Leach *et al.* to John Baker, 1730); 81:124 (Richard Leach [Jr.] to Samuel Gott, 1732); and 81:125 (Ebenezer Leach to Samuel Gott, 1735). See Essex County Probate 11342 (Samuel Gott, 1752), Will and Inventory; and 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772). See Essex County Deeds 140:237 (Moses and Elizabeth Titcomb to Nathan Wood, 1770); 159:175 (Nathan Wood to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1794), "Leach's Land;" 214:131 (Thomas Kimball [3rd] to Edmund Kimball, mortgage, 1817), the Spring Pasture; 226:131 (Edmund Kimball to Nathaniel Kimball,

Leach began subdividing his farm in 1675. That year he sold twelve acres of his property to John Greene (*ca.*1631–1691) of Ryal Side, Beverly, and in 1682 sold Greene another nine acres.⁷⁵ By the time he died in 1690 Greene had accumulated 35 acres in the part of Birch Plains that was in Wenham (not all of his deeds having been recorded), and had built a house—somewhere on this 35-acre lot—for his daughter Abigail (1661– ?) and son-in-law Nicholas Rich (*ca.*1660–after 1720). No record has been found for Abigail and Nicholas's marriage, but the birth of their daughter Abigail was recorded in Wenham in 1687, which suggests that the Greene-Rich House in Birch Plains was built by 1687. If the elder Abigail married by age 21, we might date the house as early as *ca.*1682.⁷⁶ When John Greene died in 1691, his daughter Abigail received half the 35-acre Birch Plains lot and her sister Hannah received the other half. Abigail, Hannah and their husbands sold the

1821); 290:240 (Nathaniel Kimball to Warren Peabody, 1836), the Spring Pasture; 349:210 (Warren Peabody to George W. Peabody, 1840); 454:265 (George W. Peabody to Edward F. White, 1851); 608:57 (Edward F. White to Stephen P. Perley, 1860); 629:25 (Stephen P. Perley to Solomon E. Kimball, 1861); 629:26 (Solomon E. Kimball to Edward F. White, 1861); 657:265 (Edward F. White to Stephen Cook, 1863); 1741:329 (Stephen Cook to Catherine T. Halloran, 1904); 1741:330 (Catherine T. Halloran to George H. Perkins, mortgage, 1904); 1844:346 (Catherine T. Halloran to Lora M. McKenna, 1906); 1933:312 (William and Lora M. McKenna to M. Gertrude Jones, 1908); 1993:301 (M. Gertrude Jones to George W. Gatchell, 1909); 2759:224 (George W. Gatchell to Benjamin A. Gatchell, 1928); 2759:225 (Benjamin A. Gatchell to George W. and Lydia E. Gatchell, 1928); 3126:273 (Benjamin A. Gatchell to Albert L. and Elizabeth S. Preston, 1937); 3256:258 (Albert L. and Elizabeth S. Preston to Francis H. and Anna F. Daigle, 1941); 4070:151 (Francis H. and Anna F. Daigle to Herschel F. and Sophie U. Jameson, 1954); and 9836:159 (David A. Mills, executor, to David E. Granz, 1988). The Spring Pasture was named for Leach's Spring, just north of the house site; see "West End," MS (1941), map for 1800–1850.

Upham, 1 (1867):xx (house #36) incorrectly sited the John Leach Jr. House south of Maple Street, immediately adjacent to the Danvers-Wenham town line; see Figure 1.3 of this text. For location of the house near 88 Maple Street, and visibility of its cellar hole some 100 or so years ago, see Conant (attributed), "Sites of Old Houses in Wenham Gleaned Principally from the Registry of Deeds," house site #40 (cellar hole).

Leach received a timber grant from the town in 1700 to expand or rebuild the house. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 177.

75 Essex County Deeds 6:55 (John Leach Jr. to John Greene, 1675); and 6:56 (John Leach [Jr.] to John Greene, 1682).

76 Essex County Probate 11680 (John Greene, 1691), Inventory; and Essex County Deeds 9:117 (disposition of real estate of John Greene, 1691). For births of Abigail Green and her daughter Abigail Rich see Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 73; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss), 1 (1916):389.

house and lot in 1697 to the Herrick family, who owned the abutting farm to the south. The subsequent history of the house hasn't been determined.⁷⁷

In addition to the Greene subdivision, Leach sold other land west of it in the 1680s. Joseph Hacker (or Hooker⁷⁸) came to own some of this land and built a house there in 1700. The house was originally a one-room plan, 26-feet by 18-feet. It was about 250 feet south of current-day Maple Street, west of Burley Street, and faced south (Figure 1.16). Like so many other houses of one-room plan, it grew over time. It was dismantled in 1842, but a former resident recalled it as having grown to a two and a half-story saltbox with a small projecting entry and an ell on one side at the rear.⁷⁹

77 Essex County Deeds 19:88 (Nicholas Rich and Peter Thomson to Joseph and John Herrick, 1697). Peter Thomson married Hannah Green in 1693 in Marblehead; see Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Marblehead, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: 1904), 2:185, 238 and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss), 3 (1924):445.

78 Both versions of the surname appeared in contemporary records.

79 Isaac P. Gragg, *Homes of the Massachusetts Ancestors of Major General Joseph Hooker* (Boston: Wallace Spooner, 1900), 5-7. Essex County Probate 1417 (Cornelius Baker, 1808), Division of Real Estate (1822) placed 12 rods, ten links (204.59 feet) between the road and the house garden's wall.

Hacker received timber grants to build a 20' × 20' barn (1696) and a house (1700), and it is interesting that the construction of the barn preceded that of the house; see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642-1706* (1930), 140, 175-178. For location of the Hacker parcel straddling current-day Maple Street, adjacent to the Danvers-Wenham town line, see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707-1731* (1938), 18-19. For orientation of the parcel vis-à-vis John Leach Jr.'s farm, see Essex County Deeds 30:144 (John [Jr.] and Mary Leach to Richard Leach, 1715), and 94:171 (Benjamin and Josiah Herrick to John Baker, 1732).

For history of the Hacker parcel, see Essex County Deeds 16:25 (John Leach Sr. to Edward Whittington, 1686; and Edward Whittington to Joseph Hooker and John Berry, 1689); 39:182 (John Leach Sr. to Edward Whittington, 1689; and Edward Whittington to Joseph Hooker and John Berry, 1689); and 59:117 (Joseph Hooker *et al.* to John Baker *et al.*, 1732). See also Gragg (1900), 7-9, for the Hacker family's move to Littleton, Massachusetts. See Essex County Deeds 94:171 (Benjamin and Josiah Herrick to John Baker, 1732); Essex County Probate 1445 (Capt. John Baker, 1745), Will and Inventory; Essex County Deeds 148:189 (Cornelius Baker to John Clarke, mortgage, 1788); and Essex County Probate 1417 (Cornelius Baker, 1808), Division of Real Estate (1822). See Essex County Deeds 226:45 (John Baker to Simeon Putnam, mortgage, 1821); 240:217 (Uzziel Dodge, administrator, to Isaac Woodberry Jr., 1826); 243:163 (Sarah Baker to Cornelius Baker, 1825); 245:35 (Isaac Woodberry Jr. to Samuel Obear, 1826); 245:35 (Samuel Obear to Uzziel Rea, mortgage, 1827); 275:236 (Amos Sheldon, administrator, to Joel Wilkins, 1834). Deed to Warren Peabody not found; see Essex County Probate 49487 (Warren Peabody, 1854), Inventory and Division of Real Estate. See Essex County Deeds 517:35 (Joseph Cook, administrator, to Edward W. Peabody, 1855); 567:



Figure 1.16. Site of the Joseph Hacker House, photographed 1899, from the northeast. Built in 1700 and dismantled in 1842, the house stood in the field in the background on the left of this image. The foreground shows a “ten-footer” shoe shop with a pile of cord wood between it and Maple Street. The corner of a second outbuilding is just visible at the left-hand margin. A wagon is parked across the road, in front of a third outbuilding.⁸⁰

138 (Edward W. Peabody to George W. Peabody, 1857); 567:282 (George W. Peabody to Joseph Cook and William B. Morgan, 1858); and 1875:26 (Martha A. Morgan and Isaac M. Woodbury to Edgar E. Stanyan, 1907).

Essex County Deeds 162:50 (Anna Edwards to Cornelius Baker, 1796), second parcel, records the sale of the four-acre Hooker’s [*sic*] Orchard abutting the north side of proto-Maple Street, land that Anna had inherited from her father Capt. John Baker.

80 Photographed May 27, 1899 by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921). Images courtesy of the Wenham Museum, Wenham, MA, B. H. Conant Collection, Plates #01599 and #01600. These plates were previously published in Gragg (1900), 4-5. The plate on the right was previously published in Annette V. Janes, *Images of America: Wenham* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 53. Janes states, “On the right is part of what was then the W.M. [*sic*] Morgan Farm, later purchased by the Speliotis brothers.” The correct identification of the farm, however, is the William B. Morgan Farm. In addition, these plates appeared on Edmund G. Josephs and William E. Heitz, producers, “Benjamin Conant Series: Part 4, with Harold Boothroyd,” *Hamilton-Wenham Times Past*, Continental Cablevision, Beverly, MA, June 18, 1992 at 0:41:21 and 0:42:05.

This is “the shop in front of the house” mentioned in Essex County Probate 1417 (Cornelius Baker, 1808), Division of Real Estate (1822).

Leach's Swamp (alias Blind Hole Swamp)

Figure 1.4, "Farm" C

In seventeenth-century Essex County, town common land wasn't just the public space at the center of town, the front yard for the meeting house.

The lingering alias of "Blind Hole Swamp" is a reminder that much of West Wenham used to be part of Danvers

Rather, it referred to any town-owned land—and Salem (including what would become Danvers) as well as Wenham had multiple pieces of common land distributed throughout their respective footprints. One such piece was the swamp along the current-day Danvers-Wenham town line on either side of the rail trail. Today the area is called Leach's Swamp, a name that's been in use since at least the 1740s.⁸¹ But the place was

originally called Blind Hole or Blind Hole Swamp at least as far back as 1679.⁸² "Blind Hole" remained in use into the 1940s, a testament to the durability of a charming name. Indeed, the two place names—Leach's Swamp and Blind Hole—*were used interchangeably* for two centuries: When Joseph Kent and Solomon Kimball bought land here in 1859 they referred to the site as Leach's Swamp, but sixty years later Kimball referred to the very same parcel by the older name of Blind Hole.⁸³

81 Essex County Deeds 91:225 (Joseph Herrick to Benjamin Herrick, 1748), second parcel.

Today, much of Leach's Swamp is owned by the Essex County Greenbelt Association and is accessible via the rail trail along the former route of the Newburyport and Wakefield Branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad.

82 Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 8 (1921):160. Representatives of the towns of Salem and Wenham were determining the location of the town line. The description of their perambulation starts: "We began our worke at a swamp & marked a tree by Wenham causeway on blind hole side, & from thence wee ran our line to a pine stump, from the pine stump to a white oake at Lords hill from thence to a little shrubbed oak by the pond side where wee layd some stones ..." This three-point route from Blind Hole to a pine stump to Lord's Hill reflects the old understanding of the location of the Salem Village-Wenham town line (Figure 1.15).

83 Essex County Deeds 596:118 (John Conant *et al.* to Joseph G. Kent and Solomon E. Kimball, 1859). Solomon Kimball's eight-acre woodland at "Blind Hole" is listed as such in the triennial town valuation lists of 1919 through 1943 (the lot being owned by Solomon in 1919 and 1922, and by Elwell F. Kimball in 1925 and subsequently). See Town of Wenham, *Valuation List and State, County and Town Tax of the Town of Wenham* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss), 1919:30, 1922:32, 1925:37, 1928:38, 1931:20, 1934:21, 1937:21, 1940:24 and 1943:25.

(Swamps being swamps, one wonders how many neighborhood kids have thought the name of the place was “Leeches Swamp.”)

There were actually two Blind Hole Swamps, one in West Wenham and the other in Putnamville. Keeping in mind that the town line between Salem Village and Wenham was thought to be further east than the current-day Danvers-Wenham town line (Figure 1.15), “Blind Hole” was the name for that part of Salem Village that extended from Putnamville in the west to the Wenham Causeway in the east.⁸⁴ Once the town line was established in its current location and split the Blind Hole neighborhood between two towns, the connotation for “Blind Hole” eventually shifted, referring less frequently to Greater Putnamville and more frequently to two separate swamps connected by a short stream (Figure 1.17).

One of the four-man joint grants in the swamp was made in 1698 to Thomas Kilham and three of his neighbors

West Wenham’s Blind Hole, alias Leach’s Swamp, remained common land until the 1690s. The town made grants of one-acre lots as early as 1698, the town records at the time focusing on the lots’ timber value. The town also made joint grants of four-acre lots to various groups of four men. Twenty acres’ worth of these grants can be identified today (a little more than

84 The earliest reference found for Putnamville’s Blind Hole is from 1660; see Perley, “The Plains: Part of Salem in 1700,” *Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society*, 7 (1919):97 and map opposite, 100, 119, 120. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century references to Putnamville’s Blind Hole Meadow gave way to nineteenth- and twentieth-century references to Blind Hole Swamp. For examples of “Blind Hole Meadow” see Henry McIntyre, *Map of the Town of Danvers, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia: Wagner & McGuigan, 1852); Walling (1856); and Tapley, ed., “Direct Tax of Danvers in 1798,” *The Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society*, 10 (1922):69, 74, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 91. For examples of “Blindhole Swamp” or “Blind Hole Swamp” see John W. Proctor, ed., *Account of the Centennial Celebration in Danvers* (Boston: Dutton and Wentworth, 1852), 183; Essex Institute, “Additions to the Museum and Library during October, November, and December, 1866,” *Proceedings of the Essex Institute*, 5 (1866-1867):96; Rev. A. P. Putnam, D.D., “Historical Sketch of Danvers” in Frank E. Moynahan, ed., *Danvers, Massachusetts: A Resume of Her Past History and Progress* (Danvers, MA: The Danvers Mirror, 1899), 3; and John Henry Sears, *The Physical Geography, Geology, Mineralogy and Paleontology of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Salem, MA: The Essex Institute, 1905), 22.

a third of the common land's footprint); other one- and four-acre grants recorded at the time were worded too ambiguously to know for sure whether they were in Leach's Swamp or on Lord's Hill or elsewhere.⁸⁵ These lots in

85 In 1698 the town granted a four-acre lot jointly to Lieut. John Gott, Joseph Herrick, John Herrick and Thomas Kilham. Thomas Kilham sold his interest in the lot to Gott and the Herricks in 1704. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 11-12, 32. The disposition of John Herrick's portion does not seem to have been recorded. Joseph Herrick's portion, however, was apparently all or a part of the parcel he conveyed to Benjamin Herrick, per Essex County Deeds 91:225 (Joseph Herrick to Benjamin Herrick, 1748), second parcel. When Lieut. Gott's son John Gott Jr. (ca.1694–1761) died, John Jr. owned the land shown as Lot A in Figure 1.18, acreage that was some combination of Lieut. Gott's portion of this 1698 grant and the 1704 grant to Rix/Severett/Moulton/Moulton discussed below; see Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772), third division, first parcel.

In 1698 the town also granted a four-acre lot jointly to Thomas Kimball, Ephraim Kimball, Caleb Kimball and Joseph Batchelder, abutting the southern boundary of the Gott/Herrick/Herrick/Kilham four-acre lot. The three Kimballs sold their interest in the lot to Josiah Herrick in 1710. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 11-12; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 46. The disposition of Joseph Batchelder's portion does not seem to have been recorded.

In 1703 the town granted a one-acre lot to Samuel Fiske Sr. (the tailor, ca.1645–1716) abutting the former William Osbourne Farm, the disposition of which has not been found. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 13.

In 1704 the town granted a four-acre lot jointly to Charles Gott Jr., Ebenezer Batchelder, Samuel Kimball Jr. and William Fiske Jr., a lot that abutted the town line on the west and the former William Osbourne Farm apparently on the east or northeast. It became entirely owned by Ebenezer Batchelder in 1725. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 71-72 (1704 grant), 85 (Charles Gott Jr. and William Fiske Jr. to Samuel Fiske Jr., 1704; and Samuel Kimball Jr. to Ebenezer Batchelder, 1704); Essex County Deeds 26:119 (Samuel Fiske Jr. to William Fairfield, 1713), sixth parcel; and Essex County Deeds 45:91 (William Fairfield to Ebenezer Batchelder, 1725). Three acres of meadow "at Blind Hole" were assigned to Ebenezer Batchelder's widow Sarah when his estate was settled; see Essex County Probate 2060 (Ebenezer Batchelder [sic], 1747), "Eben'r Batcheld'r Wen'h ye Appr of ye Real Estate," 1748.

It appears that—in addition to their portion of the four-man joint grant just discussed—both Charles Gott Jr. and William Fiske Jr. also received a grant of one acre each, as inferred from the wording of Essex County Deeds 26:119 (Samuel Fiske Jr. to William Fairfield, 1713), fifth parcel (the subsequent disposition of which has not been found).

In 1704 the town also granted a four-acre lot to Theophilus Rix, John Severett, Jonathan Moulton and John Moulton. The lot abutted the town line to the west and the former William Osbourne Farm to the north. The disposition of Theophilus Rix's portion doesn't seem to have been recorded. Severett sold his portion to Lieut. John Gott (probably part of the three acres in Leach's Swamp subsequently owned by John Gott Jr.), and the Moultons sold their

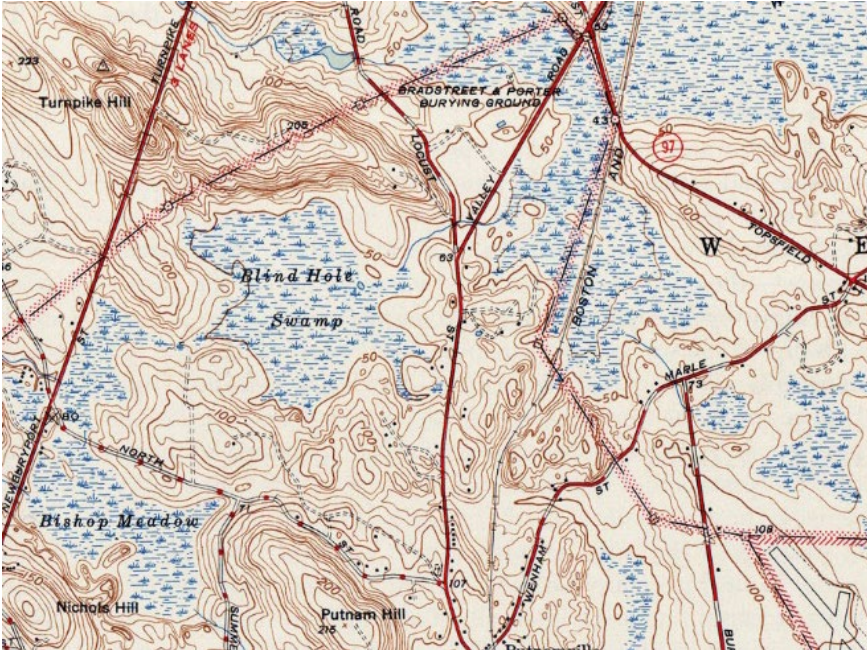


Figure 1.17. Two Blind Hole Swamps. This 1942 topographical map shows “Blind Hole Swamp” on the future site of the Putnamville Reservoir, linked by a short stream crossing Locust Street and Valley Road to a second swamp along the Danvers-Wenham town line. This second swamp in Wenham has also been called Blind Hole, a name that was in use even at the time this map was drawn.⁸⁶

portions to Theophilus Fiske (the subsequent disposition of which not found). See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 72 (1704 grant), 86 (Jonathan Moulton to Theophilus Fiske, 1704), 110 (John Moulton to Theophilus Fiske, 1706); and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 42–43 (John Severett to John Gott, 1709).

Finally, in 1704 the town also granted a one-acre lot to Thomas Fiske Jr. that abutted the eastern boundary of the Rix/Severett/Moulton/Moulton lot, and also abutted Fiske’s own farm (the former William Osbourne Farm) to the north. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 72.

⁸⁶ United States Geological Survey, *Massachusetts (Essex County) Salem Quadrangle, 1942* (U.S. Department of the Interior, 1944).

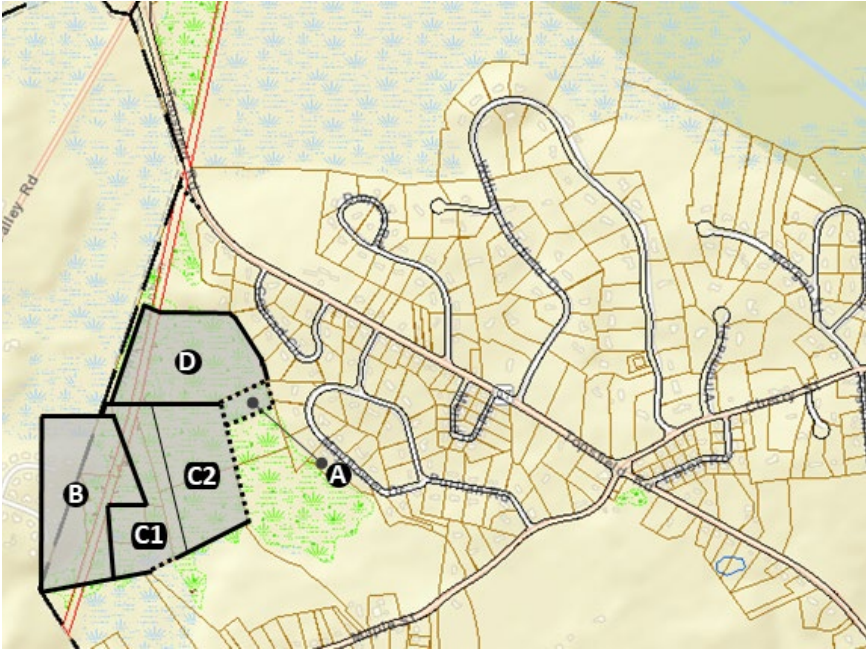


Figure 1.18. Early lots in Leach's Swamp.⁸⁷

- A. Lieut. John Gott, 1698 and 1704
- B. The Baker Lot, by 1750
- C1. The Dodge-Herrick-Conant Lot, western portion, by 1772
- C2. The Dodge-Herrick-Conant Lot, eastern portion, by 1772
- D. The Tarbox Lot, by 1781

⁸⁷ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details, see Appendix B, pages 151-155.

Leach's Swamp were combined during the course of the eighteenth century (with virtually no recorded paper trail documenting the transactions), resulting in the larger properties shown in Figure 1.18: The Baker Lot, the Dodge-Herrick-Conant Lot, and the Tarbox Lot. By the turn of the nineteenth century deeds described the area less frequently as swamp or woodland, and increasingly as peat meadow—an indication that much of the timber had been felled, and that peat had become the new fuel to be exploited.⁸⁸ Peat-digging in the area, exacerbated by the construction of the railroad in the early 1850s, has dramatically altered the local drainage: The area is under water today.⁸⁹

88 Essex County Deeds 178:256 (John Conant to Ebenezer Peabody, 1806); 178:257 (John Conant to Enos Estey, 1806); 183:64 (John Conant to William Shillaber, 1807); 240:297 (John Conant to Dominick Moore, 1807); 237:294 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to William Shillaber, 1825); 252:301 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to Ebenezer Wilkins, 1825); 3022:234 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to Samuel Brown, 1825); 240:297 (Dominick Moore to David Pingree, 1826); 250:201 (Elias Putnam to Nathaniel Boardman, 1828); 271:20 (Israel Rea to Israel Rea Jr., mortgage, 1833), fourth parcel; and 381:154 (William Rea to Israel Rea, 1847), fourth parcel.

89 For construction of the railroad and its opening in 1854 see Francis B. C. Bradlee, *The Boston and Main Railroad: A History of the Main Road, with its Tributary Lines* (Salem, MA: Essex Institute, 1921), 26.

For two early photographs of woodland along an elevated section of Leach's Swamp, see Sears (1905), 312. (Sears used the name "Leach's Swamp"; see his p. 289.)



Figure 1.19. The view from Hood's Island, Leach's Swamp, looking southeast. Named for former owner Richard Hood (1751–1835), Hood's Island is a crescent of barely-elevated ground bisected by the rail trail, at the north entrance to the rail trail's SwampWalk. It's not much of an island today; whatever height it once had was flattened with the construction of the railroad. This view is directed toward the lot that Joseph Kent and Solomon Kimball bought from the Conant family in 1859, which is the land in the medium ground before the tree line. In 1859 it was described as woodland—but thanks to the construction of the railroad the area has become flooded.⁹⁰

⁹⁰ June 17, 2021 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. Hood's Island is a reference point in Essex County Deeds 178:256 (John Conant to Ebenezer Peabody, 1806) and 190:28 (Joshua Wyman to John Conant, 1810), third parcel. For early description as woodland, see Essex County Deeds 596:118 (John Conant *et al.* to Joseph G. Kent and Solomon E. Kimball, 1859); this is the same Solomon E. Kimball who owned the Thomas Kilham House from 1845 to

Thomas Trusler Farm

Figure 1.4, Farm D

The Trusler Farm was a 100-acre grant that Salem made to Thomas Trusler (? –1654) in 1639. It straddled both sides of current-day Maple Street, and was bounded by Leach's Meadow on the west, the William Osbourne Farm and Leach's Swamp on the north, the Phineas Fiske Farm on the east, and common land on the east and the south. Thomas Trusler was a brickmaker who lived in Salem Town. He arrived there in 1638, and was made a freeman in 1642.⁹¹ By the time he died he owned several different pieces of land, although his 100-acre grant was not one of them.⁹²

We don't know when Thomas Trusler sold this farm. John Fiske (bp.1627–1683, son of Phineas) owned it by 1665, but John didn't record his deed and therefore we don't know when he acquired the farm or whether he acquired it directly from Trusler. Assuming John bought all of the Trusler Farm,

1924. With a bit of magnification Hood's Island is visible in Figure 1.17. Rather larger than it is today, less flooded, in the 1942 map it appears not as a crescent but as a diagonal shape stretching from west of the town line to east of the train tracks.

91 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 38; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 78. Grant made January 21, 1639. For biographical information, see Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 34; Paige (1849), 189; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):73, 74; Perley, *History of Salem*, 1 (1924):320-321 and 2 (1926):403; and Robert Charles Anderson, George F. Sanborn Jr. and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1999), 1:11.

92 Perley, "Salem Quarterly Court Records and Files," *The Essex Antiquarian*, 8 (1904):84; Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume I, 1636–1656* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1911), 356-357; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 1 (1916):183-184. See also Trask, "Abstracts of the Earliest Wills on Record, or on the Files in the County of Suffolk, Massachusetts," *NEHGR*, 31 (1877): 103; and Perley, "Editorial," *The Essex Antiquarian*, 5 (1901):192.

The inventory of Trusler's estate listed two house lots (one of three acres, the other of about one acre); three acres of land near his brick kiln; two ten-acre lots; and a farm consisting of 100 acres of upland and sixteen acres of meadow. The 100-acre parcel in the inventory was *not* the 1639 grant from Salem to Trusler, but was land that Trusler was in the process of buying from Rev. Edward Norris at the time of Trusler's death. Norris had received it as a grant from Salem in 1640. Trusler's stepsons inherited it from Trusler's widow in 1655, and one of Trusler's stepsons sold it to Joseph Pope in 1664. See Essex County Deeds 1:24 (Edward Norris to Eleanor Trusler, 1654); and 2:89 (Henry Phelps to Joseph Pope, 1664). See also Upham, 1 (1867):xv, xxv; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):97; Trask (1877), 103; Perley, "The Woods, Salem, In 1700" (1915), 188 and map facing 177; Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 1 (1916):211-212; Perley, *History of Salem*, 2 (1926):248; Merton Taylor Goodrich, "The Children of Eleanor Tresler," [sic] *The American Genealogist*, 10 (1933):15-16; and Anderson, Sanborn and Sanborn, 5 (2007):488.

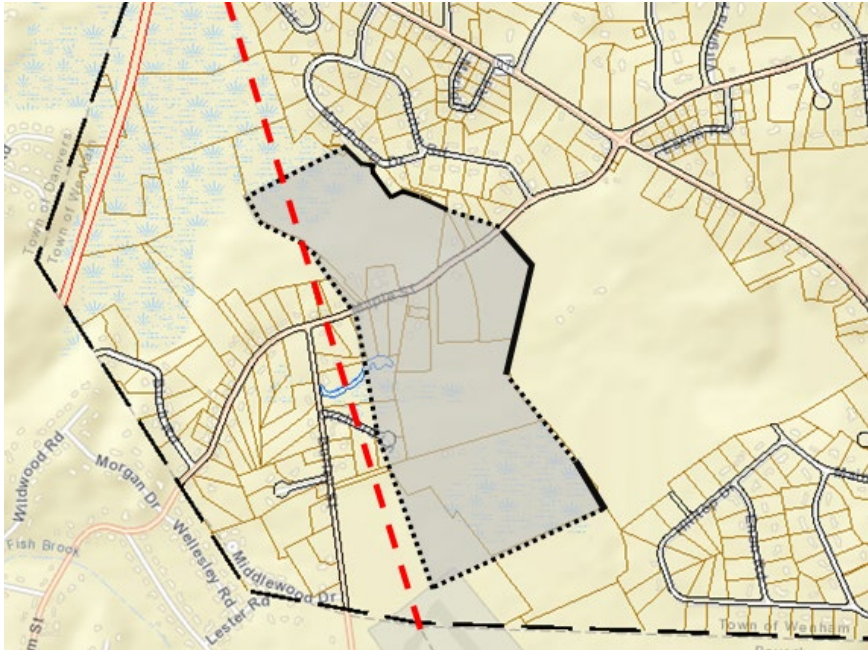


Figure 1.20. The Thomas Trusler Farm, 1639. Mapping the Trusler Farm is made difficult because few of the early recorded deeds for it or abutting farms mention landmarks that are discernible today. Consequently, much of the footprint shown here south of Maple Street is conjectural, and is offered solely to show how 100 acres *might* have fit straddling the road. Although not shown in this rendering, it is tempting to align the entire west boundary with the red dashed line, which was the original town line between Danvers and Wenham.⁹³

⁹³ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details, see Appendix B, pages 156-161.

the father-son combination of Phineas and John Fiske owned 160 acres of adjoining land (Phineas's 60 acres and John's 100).

John Fiske sold the northern half of the Trusler Farm to brothers Charles Jr. (1639–1708) and Daniel Gott (1646– ?) in 1665.⁹⁴ But what John did with the rest of the farm is unclear. Although the 1683 inventory of John Fiske's estate identifies six properties—in addition to a vague reference to real estate that John had already given his son Samuel (the carpenter, 1660–after 1703) before John's death—there's nothing about the descriptions of those parcels that readily links any of them with Trusler's Farm.⁹⁵ Just the same, a Samuel Fiske (presumably Samuel the carpenter) was in possession of the southern part of the Trusler Farm by 1697, a parcel that came to be owned by the Herrick family by the 1740s.⁹⁶

Charles Gott Jr. had a young family when he and his brother Daniel bought the 50-acre lot in 1665, and would have needed a house. (He had married his first wife Sarah Dennis in 1659, and had two toddlers at the time of the purchase. Sarah died three months before the Gotts bought the lot, and Charles married his second wife Lydia Clark the month after they bought it.⁹⁷) He built a house probably soon after he and his brother bought John

94 Essex County Deeds 3:72 (John Fiske to Charles [Jr.] and Daniel Gott, 1665).

95 Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 9 (1975):131-132. The original probate documents of the estate of John Fiske, filed at Essex County Probate 9500 (Ens. John Fiske, 1683), have been lost.

96 Essex County Deeds 19:88 (Nicholas Rich and Peter Thomson to Joseph and John Herrick, 1697) identifies land “in ye possession of Samuel Fiske” in the location of the Trusler Farm. Essex County Deeds 15:63 (Thomas Kilham to William Fairfield, 1701), a transcription of which is in Appendix C, identifies the abutting property to the southwest of Kilham's as “ye land of [S]amuel Fiske sould him by John Leach.” Perhaps Leach bought part of the Trusler farm and rented it to Samuel Fiske the carpenter? For location and subsequent history of the Herrick Lot, see Figure B.5 and related discussion in the Thomas Trusler Farm section of Appendix B, pages 159-161.

The Trusler Farm abutted town-owned common land along some or all of its southern boundary. The exact location of this boundary was an open question until the Wenham selectmen settled the matter in 1696. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 59-60, 92, 128; Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 17-18, 23-24, 35-36; and Lillie, “Houses & Lands Associated with Lord's Hill” (1984), 15. Even so, the town records don't actually describe the boundary in detail.

97 Horace Davis, *Ancestry of John Davis and Eliza Bancroft* (San Francisco: no publisher, 1897), 38; Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1654–1688*, MS (1902), 78-81 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frames 389, 391); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 41, 42, 98, 104, 125, 201; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Lynn, Massachusetts, To the End*

Fiske's land.⁹⁸ Charles Jr.'s son Lieut. John Gott (1668–1723) inherited it, and expanded the property substantially. When Lieut. John died, he owned some 88 acres that stretched from the area around Burley Street to the southwest side of Topsfield Road near Puritan Road.⁹⁹

of the Year 1849 (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1906), 2:156; Cutter, *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs, Relating to the Families of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts*, 2 (1908):869; Cutter, *Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1908), 3:1214; Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 3 (1913):118; and Edith G. Mills, "The Gott Family," *The Essex Genealogist*, 3 (1983):23, 26, quoting Wellington Pool, "The Gott Family from 1628," (1872).

98 Charles Jr. was certainly living along current-day Maple Street by the close of the seventeenth century. He gave part of his "dwelling house lot" to his son Samuel in 1697; see Essex County Deeds 12:166 (Charles Gott [Jr.] to Samuel Gott, 1697).

99 Charles Jr. died intestate, and the inventory of his estate listed a house lot of ten acres; see Essex County Probate 11321 (Charles Gott Jr., 1708). But the disposition of Daniel's part-ownership of the 50-acre lot doesn't appear to have been recorded: There's no deed recording his sale of his portion of the property, and no probate file with Essex County. Still, it's worth noting that Daniel inherited Charles Sr.'s house in the Plains (the area near current-day Arbor and Perkins Streets, Wenham) shortly after Charles Jr. and Daniel purchased their part of the former Trusler Farm. See will of Charles Gott Sr., Essex County Probate 11320 (Charles Gott Sr., 1668); and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 3 (1920):122-123.

Following John Gott's death, his sons John Jr. (ca.1694–1761) and Samuel (1695–1752) divided the property into two roughly-equal pieces, and Samuel inherited Charles Gott Jr.'s house. See Essex County Deeds 41:17 (John Gott to John Gott [Jr.] and Samuel Gott, 1723); and 49:2 (division of property between John [Jr.] and Samuel Gott, 1724), first moiety. (The 1724 division of property was recorded in a highly-detailed deed, the recorded copy of which has been badly damaged. Much of its content, unfortunately, has been lost.)

For subsequent history of Charles Gott Jr.'s house lot and adjacent land, see Essex County Probate 11342 (Samuel Gott, 1752), Will and Inventory; and 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772). See Essex County Deeds 140:237 (Moses and Elizabeth Titcomb to Nathan Wood, 1770); 149:56 (Moses Titcomb to Joseph Fairfield, mortgage, 1785; 160:90 (John Knight to Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1795), property to the west of the house lot; 167:144 (Timothy and Lydia Leach to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1800); 200:162 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Nathaniel Kimball, 1813); 312:253 (Nathaniel Kimball to Benjamin Dodge, 1836); 312:258 (Benjamin Dodge to Samuel Symonds, 1839); 422:132 (Samuel Simonds [sic] to Joseph G. Kent, 1850); 2235:125 (John K. Kent *et al.* to Joseph F. Kent, 1913); 2367:301 (Elmira E. Fulcher to John K. Kent, 1917); 2367:302 (John K. Kent to Andrew Schlehuber, 1917); 2370:187 (Andrew Schlehuber to Alma F. Schlehuber, 1917); 2985:155 (Alma F. and Andrew Schlehuber to Carl W. and Hazel A. Gram, 1934); 3276:535 (Carl W. and Hazel A. Gram to Francis B. and Evelyn L. Chalifoux, 1941); 3378:99 (Evelyn [sic] L. Chalifoux to Francis B. Chalifoux, 1944); 3509:185 (Francis B. Chalifoux to Rita Wheelwright, 1947); 3675:156 (Francis B. and Elizabeth R. Chalifoux to Laurence J. Jr. and Natalie M. Brengle, 1949); 5743:727 (Laurence J. Jr. and Natalie M. Brengle to Gardner B. and Alice D. Tipert, 1971); and 15073:5

The Kent-Schlehuber House, formerly at 47 Maple Street, is thought to have incorporated the house that Charles Jr. built.¹⁰⁰ In 1772 it was described as a south-facing, two-room-plan house with a lean-to along its north wall and a porch at its south entrance¹⁰¹—a configuration that had obviously changed considerably by the time the house was photographed in 1919 (Figure 1.22). The house stood until 1969, but burned when an airplane approaching the Beverly Airport crashed in the house's yard and set the house afire.¹⁰²

(Gardner B. and Alice D. Tipert to 47 Maple Street Trust, 1998). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 78:14 ("Plan of Land of Francis B. Chalifoux & Elizabeth R. Chalifoux, Located in Wenham, Mass.," 1949); and Plan 133:79 ("Plan of Maple Street in the Town of Wenham," 1975).

Historian Rupert Lillie was under the mistaken impression that this house was once owned by Josiah Fairfield; see Lillie, "Houses & Lands Associated with Lord's Hill" (1984), 25-26. See also Connie Fairfield Ganz, *The Fairfields of Wenham* (Newberg, OR: Allegra Print & Imaging, 2013), 109. Unfortunately, Lillie was interpreting Essex County Deeds 123:267 (Josiah Fairfield to Matthew Fairfield, 1777) as applying to the Kent-Schlehuber House lot, instead of the lot to the east of Company Lane.

See also Essex County Deeds 172:166 (Timothy Leach *et al.* to Thomas Saunders, 1803) for the sale of a 40-acre parcel, stretching from the north side of proto-Maple Street to Leach's Swamp, that had been part of the Gott Farm. Essex County Deeds 145:193 (George Crowninshield to Billy Porter, 1786), second parcel, and 173:78 (Billy Porter to Joshua Wyman, 1800), fourth parcel, provide corroboration that the property recorded in the 1803 deed was formerly owned by the heirs of Daniel Gott.

100 Lillie, "Houses & Lands Associated with Lord's Hill" (1984), 25.

101 Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772), first division.

102 "Manned Control Tower May be Needed," *Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle*, July 23, 1969, 3. The article reported the house as having been built around 1760. Was the house that burned a seventeenth-century original whose true age had become forgotten? Or was it an eighteenth-century structure that had been built on the site of an earlier one?



Figure 1.21. Notepad with brass covers that belonged to Daniel Gott, 1746. Made by Jeffrey Lang (1707–1758) of Salem and engraved “DANIEL Gott / OF / WENHAM / 1746,” it belonged to Daniel Gott (1724–1758), son of Samuel Gott (1695–1752) and owner of the Kent-Schlehuber House.¹⁰³

¹⁰³ Winterthur 1952.0127.



Figure 1.22. The Kent-Schlehuber House, photographed 1919, from the west. Thought to incorporate the house built by Charles Gott Jr. shortly after 1665, the house displays a brick chimney with scaffolding around it, broad eaves, shingle roofing, clapboard siding, 2-over-2 windows, and an entry that projects from the west-facing gable wall (with its own gable roof and classical pilasters). An ell extends to the south of the building, perpendicular to Maple Street. Described in 1772 as a south-facing saltbox, the house's configuration shown here demonstrates late eighteenth-century or early nineteenth-century renovation ... or construction of a new house on the site of the former Charles Gott Jr. House.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴ Photographed June 30, 1919 by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921). Image courtesy of the Wenham Museum, Wenham, Massachusetts, B. H. Conant Collection, Plate #03307. This image previously appeared on Josephs and Heitz (1992), 0:39:28.

The William Osbourne Farm

Figure 1.4, Farm E

William Osbourne (? –1662) arrived in Salem in 1630, was granted a one-acre house lot and a ten-acre lot in 1638, and was made a freeman the following year. He didn't stay long afterwards; he moved to Dorchester by 1644, then to Braintree by 1646, and to Boston by 1652.¹⁰⁵ Sometime after his 1638 grants of a house lot and ten-acre lot, but before his move to Dorchester, he received a grant of 110 acres in West Wenham. One hundred acres of the grant, referred to as the upland, were to the north of the Thomas Trusler Farm; the other ten acres were nearby in the Great Meadow.

There's no record of the 110-acre grant in the Salem town records. Perhaps the grant was never recorded, or perhaps it was but the record has been lost. Fortunately, a deed from 1670 provides the missing provenance. In that year Osbourne's estate sold the West Wenham farm to Rev. Antipas Newman, the deed describing a 100-acre parcel and a ten-acre parcel "according to the grant of ye Toune of Salem, many yeares agon [*sic*]"—the 100-acre parcel abutting Trusler's on the south and Joseph Porter's on the west. (Joseph Porter's farm was across the town line in Danvers.) Rev. Newman died in 1672 and his son sold the farm to Thomas Fiske Jr. (ca.1653–1723) in 1682. Neither the 1670 deed from Osbourne's estate to Newman, nor the 1682 deed from Newman's estate to Fiske, made reference to any buildings on the Osbourne Farm, indicating that it had been kept as open land.¹⁰⁶

105 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 32; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 70, grants of one acre and ten acres. Paige (1849), 187; and Perley, *History of Salem*, 1 (1924):198. For move to Dorchester, see David Pulsifer, "Early Records of Boston," *NEHGR*, 5 (1851): 334; and Cutter, *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs, Relating to the Families of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts*, 4 (1908):2012-2013. For subsequent moves to Braintree and Boston, see Samuel A. Bates, "Braintree Records," *NEHGR*, 36 (1882):46; and Trask, "Early Records of Boston," *NEHGR*, 9 (1855):250.

106 Essex County Deeds 3:93 (Bezaliel Osbourne, attorney, to [Rev.] Antipas Newman, 1670); Essex County Probate 19410 (Antipas Newman, 1673), Inventory; Essex County Deeds 14:269 (John Newman, administrator, to Thomas Fiske Jr., 1682); Trask, "Abstract From the Earliest Wills on Record in the County of Suffolk, Mass.," *NEHGR*, 11(1857):345; Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 5 (1916):158; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 2 (1917):324-325.

See also Adeline P. Cole, *Notes on Wenham History* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1943), 28. Cole stated that the Osbourne Farm was "now thought to be the present Erhard estate." Unfortunately, though, Cole was confusing the Osbourne Farm with the William Fiske Sr. Farm, both of which were owned by Rev. Newman. Henry Erhard's house (a photograph of

We're able to use early deeds and probate to determine that the northern boundary of the farm's upland ran along the edge of the Great Meadow,¹⁰⁷ and part of its western boundary ran along the current-day Danvers-Wenham town line.¹⁰⁸ We also know that the upland had its northeast corner marked by an ash tree, a spot that has remained a boundary point to this day more

which Cole included facing her p. 46) is indeed the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House on the former William Fiske Sr. Farm; see footnote 166.

107 Several deeds for lots in the Great Meadow mentioned the upland of the Capt. Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm abutting to the south (Fiske being a subsequent owner of Osbourne's farm). See Essex County Deeds 9:135 (Katherine King to James Friend, 1693); 12:136 (Nathaniel Hayward Sr. to Peter Woodbery Jr., 1692); 13:40 (Peter Woodbery Jr. to Jacob Griggs, 1697); 15:301 (Samuel Trask to Caleb Kimball, 1699); 15:302 (Joseph Trask to Caleb Kimball, 1698); 26:118 (Benjamin Trask to Caleb Kimball, 1709); and 35:174 (Stephen Herrick to Samuel Trask, 1695).

108 Although there was controversy in the late seventeenth century about the actual location of the Salem (Danvers)-Wenham town line (see Figure 1.15)—and specific debate about whether the Joseph Porter Farm was actually in Salem (Danvers) or in Wenham—we know that the eastern boundary of the Joseph Porter Farm ran the length of Wenham Causeway and continued along the current-day Danvers-Wenham town line from south of the Causeway to the current-day northeast corner of the Choate Farm Conservation Area. (This last-named point is marked by the granite post depicted at “U.S. Historic Survey Stones and Monuments,” Waymarking.com/waymarks/WM6XN7.) For the farm's eastern boundary, see Essex County Deeds 45:236 (Nathaniel Porter to Ebenezer Batchelder [Sr.], 1726); 75:227 (Samuel Porter to Samuel Porter Jr., 1737), first and third parcels; 75:268 (Samuel Porter to Eleazer Porter, 1738), third parcel; 77: 21 (Samuel Porter Jr. to Eleazer Porter, 1738), first and third parcels; 80:286 (Eleazer Porter to [Capt.] John Baker, 1741); 80:287 ([Capt.] John Baker to Eleazer Porter, 1741); 86:57 (Joseph Porter [3rd] to John Balch, 1742); and 93:234 (Eleazer Porter to Joseph Herrick, 1741). See also Essex County Probate 22479 (Joseph Porter Sr., 1714), “Division of Lands Mr. Jo. Porter, 1714” (map) and “Division of Real Estate of Joseph Porter late of Salem Deceased,” 1715 (description of boundaries). See also Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):161 (1649 reference); Upham, 1 (1867):xix (house #4); Perley, “The Plains” (1919), map opposite 97, 120-124; Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642-1706* (1930), 59-60; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687-1706* (1940), 17-18. For debate on the location of the town line, see Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts*, 8 (1921):21-22, 156-162.

The Joseph Porter Farm used to belong to Joseph's father John Porter (1596–1676); it is the same as the John Porter Farm discussed in footnote 70.

Essex County Deeds 63:54 (Thomas and Priscilla Flint to Joseph Porter [3rd], 1733), first parcel, specifies that the boundary between the Porter Farm and the former Osbourne Farm was 35½ rods (585¼ feet) long. The map and description of boundaries included in Essex County Probate 22479 indicate that this 35½-rod boundary began 12 rods (198 feet) south of the southern end of the Causeway, and that the Causeway itself was part of the town line.

than three centuries and many subdivisions later, the tree itself long gone.¹⁰⁹ Recognizing that the upland was *about* 100 acres and not *precisely* 100 acres, the upland's approximate footprint appears in Figure 1.23.¹¹⁰

It is the subdivisions of the Osbourne Farm made by Thomas Fiske Jr. and his widow that allow us to site the farm's boundaries. (We'll learn more about Thomas Fiske Jr. when we visit the next farm on our tour, as it was this next farm where Fiske built his house.) Fiske began subdividing the farm in 1702, when he sold a seven-acre wedge of its upland to his abutting neighbor Lieut. John Gott—the same Lieut. John (1668–1723) that we met earlier in the context of Trusler's Farm. (Gott probably bought additional abutting land but did not record his deed.)¹¹¹ Fiske's widow and her niece's husband subsequently sold the remaining portions of the Osbourne Farm upland;¹¹² by 1730 these portions were owned by Samuel Kimball Jr. (1677–1746).¹¹³

109 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 7 (1693 reference); and Essex County Deeds 26:63 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Samuel Fiske, 1712). See also the discussion of Subdivision A of the Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm in Appendix B, pages 169–170..

110 As for the ten-acre meadowland, Essex County Deeds 45:272 (Rebecca Fiske to Thomas How[e] Jr., 1724) describes four acres that seem to have been part of the former Osbourne Farm's meadowland and not part of the upland.

111 Essex County Deeds 15:205 (Thomas Fiske Jr. to John Gott, 1702). For additional probable purchase by Gott, see the Gott Family's 19-Acre Lot in the discussion of the William Osbourne upland in Appendix B, page 168.

112 In 1715 Thomas Fiske Jr. pledged a gift of one-third his real estate to his wife's niece Rebecca Perkins (bp.1692–1794) when Rebecca married Thomas Howe Jr. (1692–1777) of Marlborough, Massachusetts. In addition, in Fiske's will he bequeathed the remainder of his real estate to Rebecca upon the subsequent death of his wife. See Essex County Deeds 40:232 (marriage contract, Thomas Fiske [Jr.] and Thomas Howe [Sr.], 1715); and Essex County Probate 9521 (Thomas Fiske [Jr.], 1723), Will.

For Fiske-Howe-Perkins genealogy, see Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1695–1743*, MS, unnumbered page (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 57) (Howe-Perkins marriage intention April 3, 1715 and marriage on April 26, 1715); George A. Perkins, M.D., *The Family of John Perkins of Ipswich, Massachusetts, Part III* (Salem, MA: Salem Press, 1889), 8; Pierce (1896), 77–78; Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1654–1688*, MS (1902), 87 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 397); Almira Larkin White, ed., “Corrections and Additions,” *White Family Quarterly*, 1 (1903):50; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 132, 155, 215, 216; and Franklin P. Rice, ed., *Vital Records of Marlborough, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, MA: Franklin P. Rice, 1908), 1:369. Although Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904) included the date of the Howe-Perkins marriage intention, it omitted the date of their marriage.

113 Essex County Deeds 56:188 (exchange of land between John Kimball and Thomas Howe [Jr.] and Rebecca Fiske, 1726) was recorded on the same day that Samuel Kimball Jr. sold four

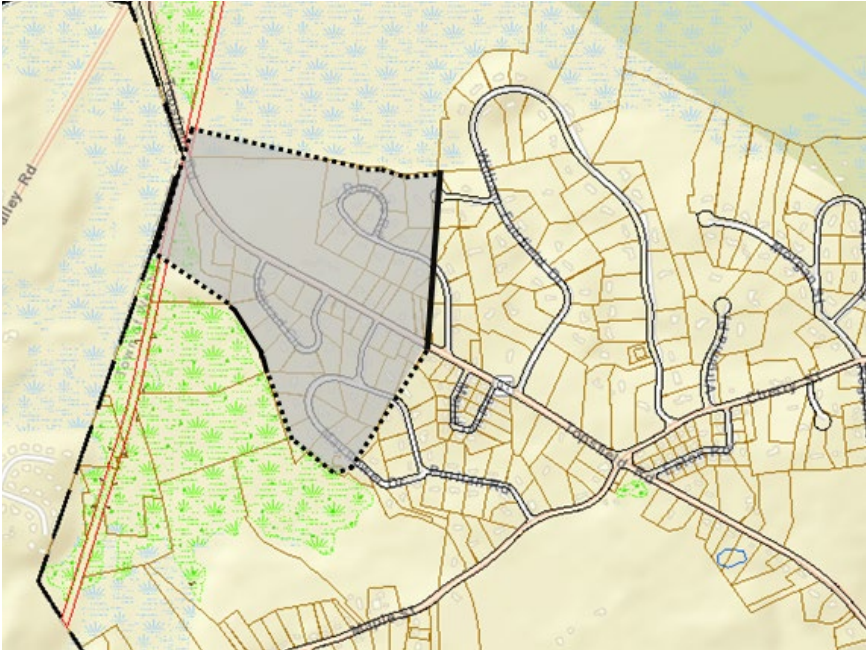


Figure 1.23. The upland portion of the William Osbourne Farm, by 1644. Its southern and northern boundaries apparently conformed to onsite topography, each boundary corresponding to the base of Meadow Hill.¹¹⁴

other lots that had previously been part of the Osbourne Farm. (See discussion of the Towne Lot, the Farm Pasture, John Gott Jr.'s Seven-Acre Lot and the Moulton Pasture in Appendix B, pages 164-167.) In 56:188 the parties made a land exchange so as to straighten one of their shared property lines. The fact that *John Kimball's* deed was recorded on the same day as *Samuel Kimball Jr.'s* sale of four lots indicates a clarification of property title; *i.e.*, it suggests that Samuel had acquired at least one of his four lots from John Kimball. This John Kimball (1687– 1754) was a brother of Samuel Kimball Jr.; see Leonard Allison Morrison and Stephen Paschall Sharples, *History of the Kimball Family in America* (Boston: Damrell & Upham, 1897), 51, 68.

¹¹⁴ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details, see Appendix B, pages 162-163.



Figure 1.24. Site of the William Osbourne Farm, with the site of the Great Meadow and Wenham Swamp in the distance.¹¹⁵

¹¹⁵ July 12, 2015 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. Photographed near 212 Topsfield Road looking north, this vista includes land that was once part of the Osbourne Farm as well as land that was once part of the Great Meadow. The tree line in the distance marks the edge of Wenham Swamp. Although the trees are probably rather shorter today than when the Puritans arrived, and the swamp has encroached on the former meadow, this is a view that is very similar to what Wenhamites saw when they worked their meadowland in the 1600s.

The Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm

Figure 1.4, Farm F

Thomas Fiske Sr. and Thomas Fiske Jr., father and son, were each a leading citizen of his respective day. Thomas Sr. (bp.1630–1707), the youngest child of Phineas and Sarah (Francis) Fiske, was born in England and came to Massachusetts with his parents by 1641. He was married twice, although we know little about either wife. Peggy—maiden name unknown—was the mother of his children, and had the distinction of being fined ten shillings in 1652 for wearing a tiffany. (A tiffany was a type of silk hood. Sumptuary law restricted the wearing of tiffanies to women whose husbands had a net worth of at least £200, and Essex County court records show that Peggy wasn't the only fashionista who favored them.) Second wife Martha Fitch, whom Thomas married in 1695 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, survived him but no record remains for either Peggy's or Martha's death. Thomas was an inn-keeper—an occupation very similar to his father Phineas's and kinsman William Sr.'s occupation of tavern keeper. A freeman in 1661, he was also a captain of the local militia and a veteran of King Philip's War. His 49-year résumé of public service was impressive: Town clerk for 40 years, 1654–1694; selectman, 1662–1670, 1672–1679, 1682–1687, 1688–1693, 1702–1703 and 1705; Representative to the General Court, 1671–1672, 1678–1680, 1683, 1686, 1694 and 1697; and moderator of town meeting, 1686, 1694, 1700, 1704 and 1705. Thomas was also the foreman of the jury that heard the Salem Witchcraft Trials.¹¹⁶

116 Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1695–1743*, MS, 10 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 20); Essex County Probate 9520 (Thomas Fiske [Sr.], 1707), Will; Thomas Hutchinson, *The History of the Province of Massachusetts-Bay: From the Charter of King William and Queen Mary in 1691, Until the Year 1750* (Boston: Thomas & John Fleet, 1767), 52–53; Shurtleff, *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Vol. IV, Part II, 1661–1674* (Boston: Press of William White, 1854), 485, 507; Shurtleff, 5 (1854): 211, 266, 421, 514; Allen (1860), 33, 39, 40, 46, 51, 102, 103, 162, 217; Fiske (1867), 207–208; Upham, 2 (1867):284, 474–475; James F. Hunnewell, ed., “The First Record-Book of the First Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts,” *NEHGR*, 29 (1875):290; Perley, “Wenham” (1888), 1238, 1244–1246; George M. Bodge, *Soldiers in King Philip's War* (Boston: Rockwell and Churchill Press, 1896), 286, 311, 312, 314; Pierce (1896), 51–52, 64–66; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 198; Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 1 (1911):276, 373; Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 10, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 37, 39, 42, 44, 45, 46, 49, 58, 66, 71, 74, 77, 82, 88, 91, 93, 99, 101, 107, 111, 207–210; Moriarty (1934), 271–272; and Cole (1943), 33.

Thomas Fiske Jr. (*ca.*1653–1723), eldest son of Thomas and Peggy (-----) Fiske and grandson of Phineas Fiske, was born in Wenham, a member of the first generational cohort of English colonists who were born in New England. He married Rebecca Perkins (1662–after 1730) in 1679, the daughter of Rev. William and Elizabeth (Wootton) Perkins of Topsfield, Massachusetts. Like his father, Thomas Jr. was the captain of the local militia. He was constable in 1680; a freeman in 1690; selectman in 1695–1696, 1698, 1700–1701, 1703, 1704, 1708, 1710, and 1720; town treasurer in 1695, 1696 and 1702; schoolmaster in 1700–1702; moderator of town meeting in 1696, 1698, 1700, 1710, 1711 and 1720; town clerk in 1702, 1703 and 1705; and Representative to the General Court in 1715. Thomas Jr. was a member of the jury that heard the Salem Witchcraft Trials, for which his father served as foreman. (Both Fiskes, as well as the other members of the jury, later apologized for their role in those trials.)¹¹⁷

For the 1651 sumptuary law that prohibited, among other things, the wearing of tiffanies by anyone “or any of their relations depending vpon them, whose visible estate, reall & prson-all” was less than £200, see Shurtleff, 3 (1854):243-244.

117 List of Freeman from Wenham, May 30, 1690, MS, *Massachusetts Archives Collections* 26: 103a; Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1695–1743*, MS, unnumbered page (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 42); Essex County Probate 9521 (Thomas Fiske [Jr.], 1723), Receipt of Thomas and Mary Joslin; Shurtleff, 5 (1854):419; Allen (1860), 41, 102, 103, 108-109, 134; Fiske (1867), 207-208; Upham, 2 (1867):474-475; Perley, “Wenham” (1888), 1237, 1238, 1240-1241, 1244-1247; Pierce (1896), 64-65, 77-78; Topsfield Historical Society, *Vital Records of Topsfield, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1903), 83; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 119, 156, 198; George Francis Dow, ed., “Towne Family Papers,” *Historical Collections of the Topsfield Historical Society*, 18 (1913): 2, 3; Mrs. Frank Elmer Perkins, “Genealogical Research in England: Perkins,” *NEHGR*, 76 (1922):229, 231-232; Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 56, 113, 128, 141, 157, 166, 179, 188, 209-210; and Anderson, 3 (1995):1435-1436.



Figure 1.25. Gravestone of Capt. Thomas Fiske Jr.¹¹⁸

118 Main Street Cemetery, Wenham, May 18, 2018 photograph and transcription by Robert O. Corcoran:

Here Lyes Buried
the Body of Capt.
THOMAS FISK,
Who Dec^d. Febr^{ry} y^e 5th 1723
in y^e 7th0 [sic] Year of His Age,
*The Righteous shall be had
in Everlasting Remembrance.*

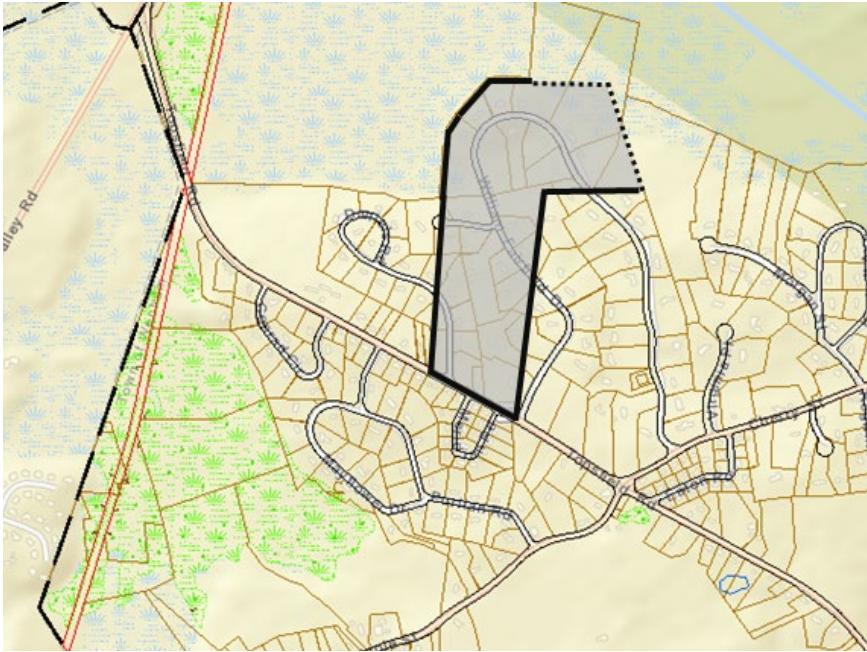


Figure 1.26. The upland portion of the Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm, 1686.¹¹⁹

This is an impressive gravestone. Its 35½" width, roughly-4" thickness, abundant carving, and striated grain make it one of the most eye-catching stones in the cemetery. Thomas also has a carved footstone. His widow's stone, however, is nowhere to be found. (There *are* a headstone and footstone for an adjacent grave, a grave that is oriented perpendicularly to Thomas's. But neither the headstone nor the footstone has any carving to identify the deceased.) For additional images of Thomas's headstone, see Findagrave.com memorial #8024232.

Thomas Fiske Jr. died during the epidemic (perhaps smallpox) of 1723; see Volume 2, page 106 for more information on the epidemic.

¹¹⁹ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details, see Appendix B, pages 169-170.

In 1686 Thomas Sr. gave Thomas Jr. a farm of 58 acres that was split between two parcels. The larger of the two parcels was to the north of Topsfield Road (Figure 1.26). It abutted Wenham Swamp to the north; the former John Fairfield Farm to the southeast; land owned by William Fiske Jr. (1643–1728) to the south; and the former William Osbourne Farm and the Great Meadow to the west.¹²⁰ The smaller parcel was adjacent, in the Great Meadow. Fiske Jr. had bought the abutting Osbourne Farm four years earlier—thus the 58-acre gift brought the combined parcels to 168 acres.

How and when Thomas Sr. acquired the 58-acre components is not recorded: There's no surviving deed, no record of a grant to him from either the town of Salem or the town of Wenham, and no mention of this land in the will of his father Phineas. The eastern abutter of the former William Osbourne Farm—which included land that corresponded to the Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm—was not identified in either the 1670 or 1682 Osbourne Farm deeds. The absence of a named abutter raises the possibility that the Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm might have been town-owned common land as late as 1682.

Fiske Jr. apparently built a house on his newly-acquired upland shortly after he received the land from his father, near the current-day intersection of Topsfield and Daniels Roads. He and his family lived there until 1693, when he bought and moved into the Claflin-Richards House, 132 Main Street (Figure 2.40). He held on to his West Wenham house for another 19 years—no doubt as a rental property—and sold it in 1712 to Thomas Tarbox (1684–1774), along with a barn and 22 acres. Further research is needed to determine when the West Wenham house was demolished.¹²¹

120 Essex County Deeds 20:56 (Thomas Fiske [Sr.] to Thomas Fiske [Jr.], 1686). There is no mention of any buildings in the deed.

121 For the West Wenham house, see Essex County Deeds 41:169 (Thomas Fiske [Jr.] to Thomas Tarbox, 1712). For subsequent history of this house lot, see Essex County Probate 27212 (Thomas Tarbox, 1774), Will; and 27210 (Dea. Samuel Tarbox, 1784), Will and Inventory. See also Essex County Deeds 157:270 (Richard Hood to Rebecca Moulton, 1794; and Richard Hood to Anna Conant, 1794); 158:206 (Richard Hood to Samuel Raymond, 1794); 159:7 (Jonathan Moulton *et al.* to Richard Hood, 1794); 162:254 (Anna Conant to Richard Hood, 1797); 239:98 (Richard Hood to Paul Porter, 1825); 298:195 (Josiah M. Hood *et al.* to Paul Porter, 1836); 529:106 (Paul Porter to John Smith and Nicholas Brown, 1856); 603:1 (John Smith and Nicholas Brown to George Tufts, 1860); 894:28 (George Tufts to Elbridge K. Standley, 1873); 1299:227 (Elbridge K. Standley to Bessie E. Herrick, 1891); 1426:12 (Bessie E. Herrick to George W. Wilson, 1894); 3551:491 (George W. Wilson to Edmond J. Richard Jr., 1947); 5147:631 (Bertram Glovsky, administrator, to Dan C. and Stella Marino, 1964); and 5147:633 (Meridian Heights Corp. to Dan C. and Stella Marino, 1963). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 3821:229 (“Land of Wendell H. Crosby, Wenham, Mass.,” 1951); Plan 5191:429

Thomas Fiske Jr. began subdividing his West Wenham farm shortly after he moved into the Claflin-Richards House. One of the earliest subdivisions resulted in First Period housing: His kinsman Samuel Fiske (the weaver, 1670–after 1725) built a house about the year 1699 in the current-day neighborhood of 23-33 William Fairfield Drive. A road approached the house from the east, the lower portion of which corresponding roughly with current-day Morgan Street.¹²² Samuel sold the house in 1713 to his next-door neighbor William Fairfield (1663–1742), but the house had disappeared by 1738 when Fairfield divvied-up his real estate between his sons.¹²³

(“Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Dan C. Marino,” 1964); and Plan 104:99 (“Subdivision Plan, Fairfield Development,” 1965). See also Allen (1860), 138. See also Conant (attributed), “Sites of Old Houses in Wenham Gleaned Principally from the Registry of Deeds,” house site #37, for a cellar hole just east of the George W. Wilson House.

For purchase of the Claflin-Richards House, see Essex County Deeds 41:184 ([Rev.] Joseph Gerrish to Thomas Fiske Jr., 1693).

122 Thomas Fiske Jr.’s 1693 description of his property refers to a road going to the Great Meadow that traversed the southern portion of Subdivision A in Figure B.9, Appendix B; see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 7.

123 In 1700 Samuel Fiske (the weaver) received a grant of pine and hemlock to finish the house he was living in at the time; see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 177. He had married Elizabeth Browne at Wakefield, Massachusetts on December 5, 1699. See Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1695–1743*, MS, unnumbered page (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births, Marriages and Deaths, frame 51); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 94, 119; and Thomas W. Baldwin, ed., *Vital Records of Reading, Massachusetts, To the Year 1850* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1912), 294, 338.

For Samuel’s birth and death, see Essex County Probate 9522 (William Fisk[e], 1728); and Pierce (1896), 69, 70, 83. For his 1712 move to Rehoboth, Massachusetts—which was the reason why he sold his West Wenham house—see Bristol County Deeds 9:132 (John Dagget to Samuel Fiske, 1712).

William Fiske Jr. sold the house, barn and 20 acres to his son Samuel for the nominal sum of £15; see Essex County Deeds 26:63 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Samuel Fiske, 1712). William Fiske Jr. had six sons who married—William 3rd, Samuel (the weaver), Joseph, Benjamin, Theophilus and Ebenezer. William Jr. shared his own house with Ebenezer (the youngest of his sons to marry), ultimately transferring ownership of it to him, and provided separate houses to William 3rd, Samuel, Benjamin and Theophilus. (Joseph was an exception; he received his house and farm from Joseph’s father-in-law.) Instead of gifting the properties outright, William Jr. sold each respective property at a relatively small price. In this way, he was able to give his sons their inheritances early, while raising cash that he was ultimately able to bequeath as part of his estate. See footnotes 35, 169, 172 and 175.

For subsequent history of the lot, see Essex County Deeds 26:119 (Samuel Fiske Jr. to William Fairfield, 1713); 78:178 (William Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1738) and 84:121 (William Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, 1738), apparently the meadowland (devoid of any buildings) adjacent to Meadow Hill; 147:154 (Benjamin Fairfield to Samuel and Joseph Fairfield,

The Lord's Hill Commons

Figure 1.4, "Farm" G

Although the town of Salem made significant grants of land in West Wenham during the 1630s, Salem left other stretches of West Wenham land untouched—stretches of land that the new town of Wenham inherited as its own common land. Wenham residents who had been accepted as townsmen were allowed to use common land to harvest wood for fuel, fencing and construction materials, and allowed to use the commons as pasture for livestock.

We've seen that the Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm might possibly have remained common land as late as the early 1680s, and that Leach's Swamp was indeed common land until the 1690s. The Lord's Hill Commons was another tract of common land in West Wenham, one that included some portion of

Continued on p. 72

1780); 152:69, 158 (Joseph Fairfield *vs.* Samuel Fairfield, 1790), which refer to buildings, although the buildings are likely the William Fairfield House and associated barn and outbuildings; 162:164 (Joseph Fairfield to [Rev.] John Fairfield, 1797); 164:103 (Samuel Fairfield to Joseph Fairfield, 1798); 191:242 (Rev. John Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield *et al.*, 1811); 191:242 (Benjamin Fairfield *et al.* to David Woodbury, 1811); 191:243 (David Woodbury to Rev. John Fairfield, 1811); 232:175 (Ichabod Fairfield *et al.* to David Woodbury, 1823); 232:280 (David Woodbury to Mark Symons, mortgage, 1823); 525:165 (Sarah Woodbury, administratrix, to Mark Symons, 1855), which mentions *one* dwelling house, which would have been the William Fairfield House; 525:166 (Mark Symons to B[enjamin] C. and J[ohn] A. Putnam, 1856); 551:287 (Benjamin C. Putnam to John A. Putnam, 1857); 1258:329 (John A. Putnam to Martha P. Putnam, 1899), first parcel; 1741:230 (Wallace P. Perry, guardian, to Wolcott H. Johnson, 1904); 2658:19 (William Endicott and Edward B. Bayley, trustees, to Mona H. Tucker, 1925); 2729:392 (Randolph F. and Mona House Tucker to Glenn C. Bramble, 1927); 2729:394 (Glenn C. Bramble to Randolph F. and Mona House Tucker, 1927); and 6692:396 (Executors and Trustees Under the Will of Randolph F. Tucker, Covenant, 1980). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 1741:600 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass.," 1904); Plan 158:23 ("Subdivision Plan of Land, Tucker Estate, Wenham, MA," 1979), sheet 1; and Plan 157:85 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Estate of Randolph F. Tucker," 1980).

Lillie, "A Pictorial Map of Wenham and Environs, 1776," (Wenham, MA: no publisher, 1976) incorrectly labeled this house as "Daniel & Benjamin Fiske, 1716," having made the genealogical mistake of confusing Samuel Fiske the weaver with Samuel Fiske the tailor.

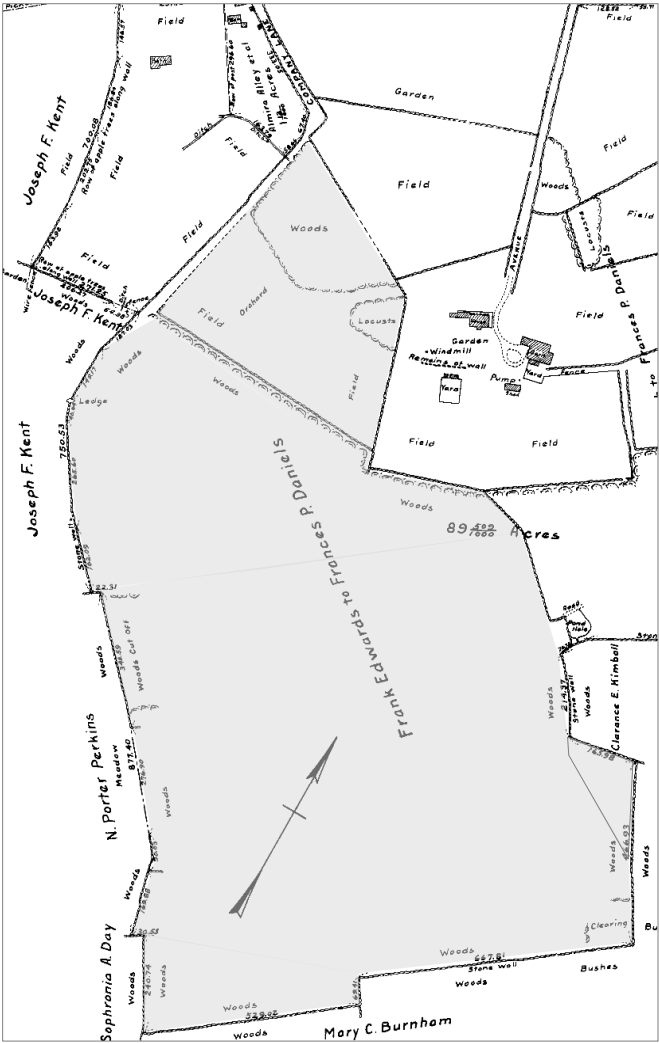


Figure 1.27. Northern portion of the Lord's Hill Commons, 1910.¹²⁴

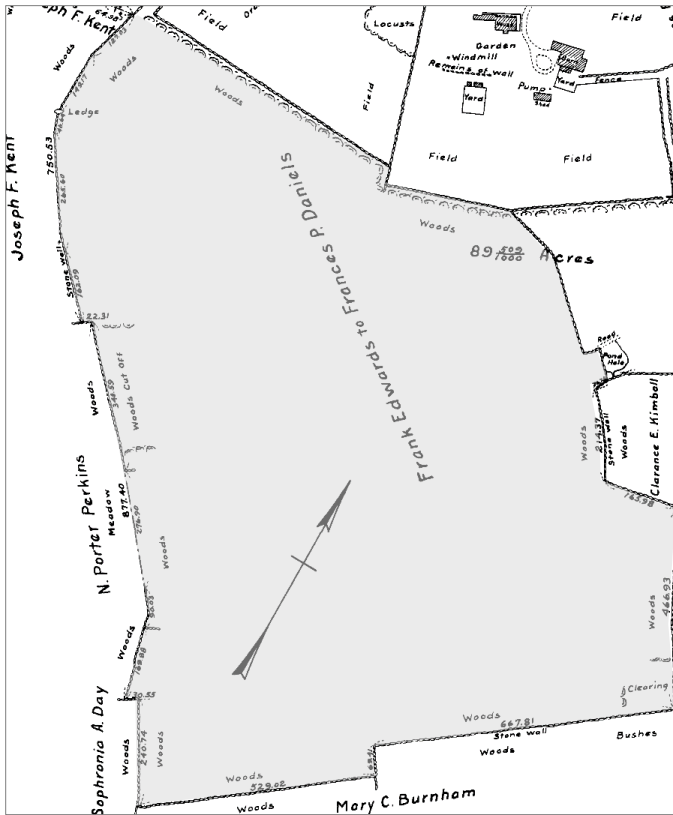


Figure 1.28. The Company Pasture, 1910.¹²⁵

124 Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 ("Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham," 1910); shading added.

125 *Ibid.* The pasture was measured at 44 acres in 1867; see Essex County Deeds 722:134 (George W. and Mary E. Kimball to Samuel S. Cook, 1867).

Lord's Hill itself as well as areas to the west and north of the hill.¹²⁶ The northern portion of the Lord's Hill Commons (Figure 1.27) wound its way between the Thomas Trusler Farm on the west and the Thomas Spooner Farm on the east, and abutted the Phineas Fiske Farm to the north.¹²⁷

The Lord's Hill Commons remained common land until just after 1705. The year before, the town embarked on a program to upgrade its system of roads, and the town needed a way to pay for it. Property owners along the routes of these roads had land taken from them by the town, and were compensated for the land-taking in one of two ways. Some property owners were granted land out of the Lord's Hill Commons as compensation in-kind. Other property owners were paid with cash—which was raised by the town by selling parcels of the Lord's Hill Commons.¹²⁸ West Wenham resident William Fairfield acquired some of these parcels shortly after the land was privatized. He was an important figure in the history of the Thomas Kilham House, and we'll see in Chapter 3 (Volume 2) that, by 1701, William owned both the Thomas Kilham House as well as the adjacent John Fairfield Farm.¹²⁹

126 Lord's Hill gets its name from William Lord (ca.1577–1673), a cutler who lived in Salem Town and owned land on the West Wenham hill adjacent to the Beverly town line. For early references, see Essex County Deeds 1:13 (William Lord to [Rev.] John Fiske, 1651[/2]); 1:36 (Henry and Francis Skerry to Henry Herrick, 1653); 3:111 (John and William Haskall to Nicholas Woodbury, 1668); 4:182 (John Shipley to Richard Kemball [*sic*], 1656), third parcel; and 7:152 (James Moulton to James Friend, 1674). See also Essex County Probate 15724 (Richard Kimball [Jr.], 1676), Inventory; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 3 (1920): 72. See also Anderson, Sanborn and Sanborn, 4 (2005):335-340. Determining the full shape and size of the Lord's Hill Commons is outside the scope of this book.

127 Essex County Deeds 15:63 (Thomas Kilham to William Fairfield, 1701), first parcel, a transcription of which is in Appendix C; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 121, 128.

The Lord's Hill Commons probably also had frontage along proto-Topsfield Road, near the current-day intersection of Topsfield Road and Burnham Road. See discussion of the Porter/Friend sawmill at Chapter 2 (Volume 2), footnote 69.

128 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 8-9.

129 In 1738 William Fairfield split his portfolio of real estate between his sons Josiah and Benjamin. His deed to Josiah included “Thomas Killams Homested and y^e land I had out of the Common adjoining to that at the South corner;” see Essex County Deeds 78:178 (William Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1738), first parcel, a transcription of which is in Appendix C.

In addition to the former common land mentioned in Essex County Deeds 78:178, William owned at least three lots that had been part of the Lord's Hill Commons and would become part of the Company Pasture:

The Company Pasture (Figure 1.28) was part of the Lord's Hill Commons. Forty acres large, this land entered private ownership sometime around 1705, and was subsequently acquired by the Fairfield family. The name "Company Pasture" speaks to its onetime ownership structure: When the Fairfields sold the property in 1798, it was bought by three men who purchased it as a joint venture.¹³⁰ (Such "companies" of business partners

- In March 1705 Fairfield received four acres and 105 poles as compensation for land-taking by the town during the 1704 program. This lot was evidently southwest of the former Thomas Spooner Farm (discussed later in this chapter). See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 101.

- In October 1706 Fairfield purchased (from the town) an additional one and a half acres, apparently contiguous to the previous parcel. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 19; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 106.

- In June 1707 Fairfield purchased from the town another parcel of just under four acres. This parcel was "bounded Northwesterly upon the said Fairfields own land given him by the town for highway satisfaction and Northeasterly upon Left. John Porters land." See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 4, 7, 23–24. Interestingly, Fairfield was one of the town's selectmen in 1707; as purchaser of the four-acre lot and as selectman, Fairfield was on both sides of this transaction simultaneously.

Thomas Kilham's legal interest in the town's various common lands was transferred to William Fairfield when Fairfield bought Kilham's farm in 1701. Fairfield sold that interest to William Dodge in 1709; see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 33–34.

130 For history of the lot in the Fairfield family and its 1798 conversion to jointly-owned property, see Essex County Deeds 121:231 (Josiah Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, 1767), first and perhaps second parcels; 126:217 (Benjamin Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1767), first parcel; 125:143 (Josiah Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, mortgage, 1767); 151:162 (Joseph Fairfield, administrator, to James Friend [Jr.], 1790); 151:162 (James Friend [Jr.] and Joseph Fairfield to [Dr.] Josiah Fairfield [Jr.], 1790); 162:139 (Priscilla and William Fairfield to Joseph Fairfield, 1797); 162:164 (Joseph Fairfield to [Rev.] John Fairfield, 1797), second parcel; 165:287 (William Fairfield *et al.* to Joseph Fairfield, Richard Hood and Samuel Ober [*sic*], 1798); and 167:173 (William Fairfield to Joseph Fairfield, Richard Hood and Samuel Obea, 1798), 40 acres. (Essex County Deeds 167:173 refers to another lot owned by Fairfield, Hood and Obea as the abutting property to the north, but the trio didn't record their deed when they acquired the other lot.)

In 1807, Hood, Obea and Fairfield sold 30 acres of this land to Ebenezer Todd, a transaction that required various deeds to provide clear title. See Essex County Deeds 180:185 ([Rev.] John Fairfield to Joseph Fairfield, 1807); 180:185 (Joseph Fairfield to Richard Hood, 1807), one-third interest; one-third interest conveyed by Joseph Fairfield to Samuel Obea in 1807, but deed not recorded; and 181:202 (Richard Hood, Samuel Obea and Joseph Fairfield to Ebenezer Todd, 1807).

Todd apparently sold this land back to Hood, Obea and Fairfield, because by 1809 the trio (or in Fairfield's case, his heirs) owned all 40 acres, and the respective owners began selling

were a well-understood business model. When the East Wenham and Wenham Swamp Commons were distributed in 1705, they were distributed to companies of five to eight townsmen.)

“Company Lane” is the name given to the cart path, now a gravel road, that connected proto-Maple Street to the Company Pasture. It dates from the seventeenth century when it provided access to the interior of the Lord’s Hill Commons, and formed part of the eastern boundary of the Thomas Trusler Farm (discussed earlier in this chapter).¹³¹

their undivided portions of the property. For Obear’s portion, see Essex County Deeds 195:58 (Samuel Obear to Ebenezer Todd, 1809); and 196:74 (Ebenezer Todd to Nathaniel Kimball, 1811), second parcel. For Fairfield’s portion, see 192:9 (Benjamin Fairfield, administrator, to Isaac Porter, 1810); and 212:185 (Isaac Porter to Nathaniel Kimball, 1816). For Hood’s portion, see 204:70 (Richard Hood to Isaac Porter, 1814); and 212:185 (Isaac Porter to Nathaniel Kimball, 1816).

See Essex County Probate 44414 (Nathaniel Kimball, 1855), Will and Inventory, bequests of the Company Pasture to Edward and George [W.] Kimball. See Essex County Deeds 516:15 (Edward Kimball to Henry Tarr, 1855); 527:144 (Henry Tarr to George W. Kimball, 1855); 529:47 (George W. Kimball to Samuel Porter, mortgage, 1856); 722:134 (George W. and Mary E. Kimball to Samuel S. Cook, 1867); 1743:365 (William C. Low, executor, to Frank Edwards, 1904); 2025:13 (Frank Edwards to Frances P. Daniels, 1910), second parcel; 2968:190 (Frances P. Daniels to Mary B. Amory, 1933), third parcel; and 4775:417 (Mary B. Amory to Henry S. and Mary Ann Streeter, 1961), first parcel.

131 See Figure B.5 in Appendix B. Although references to “the lane to the Company Pasture” appear in deeds as early as 1798, the earliest documented appearance of the name “Company Lane” is the one found in Essex County Deeds 1119:42 (Samuel S. Cook to Almira Alley, 1883).

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: The Commons Distribution of 1705

In 1705 the town voted to distribute the bulk of its remaining common land. Hundreds of acres in East Wenham and Wenham Swamp were distributed by lottery to companies of five to eight proprietors—adult male residents of the town who had voting status (“townsmen”). The Lord’s Hill Commons, however, were excluded from this land-distribution program. The business of divvying-up Lord’s Hill (to compensate property owners who had land taken from them when the town expanded its road system in 1704) was still underway at the time, and continued at least until 1707.

The Thomas Spooner Farm

Figure 1.4, Farm H

Thomas Spooner (? –1664), a linen weaver by trade, arrived in Salem about the year 1637, was made a freeman in 1638, and at some point was granted 40 acres of upland and four acres of meadow. The upland was to the west of the James Moulton Farm, south of the Phineas Fiske Farm, and north and east of portions of the Lord’s Hill Commons; the four acres of meadow were in the Great Meadow. The grant was not recorded at the time, and it wasn’t until 1651 that an entry was made in the Salem town record book acknowledging that the grant had been “long since laid out to him”—or, in other words, had been made a long time prior to 1651.¹³² In 1657 he sold the 44 acres to John Denman Jr. (1621– ?), a tailor from Manhattan who had

Continued on p. 78

¹³² Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 91; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 126, record of 40- and four-acre grant. For biographical information, see Paige (1849), 95; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):51, 104; Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 3 (1913):219; Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 1 (1916):455-456; and Perley, *History of Salem*, 1 (1924):198.

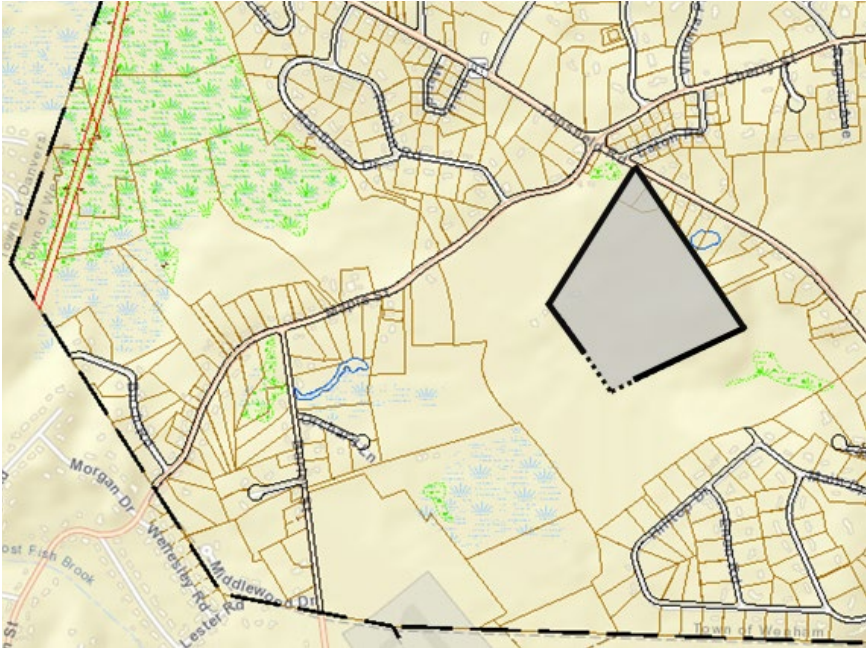


Figure 1.29. The upland portion of the Thomas Spooner Farm, before 1651.¹³³

¹³³ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. Lengths of boundaries are based on a 1695 description recorded by John Porter (1658–1753) with the town of Wenham; see footnote 137 for a transcription. Boundaries are anchored on stone walls shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 (“Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham,” 1910).

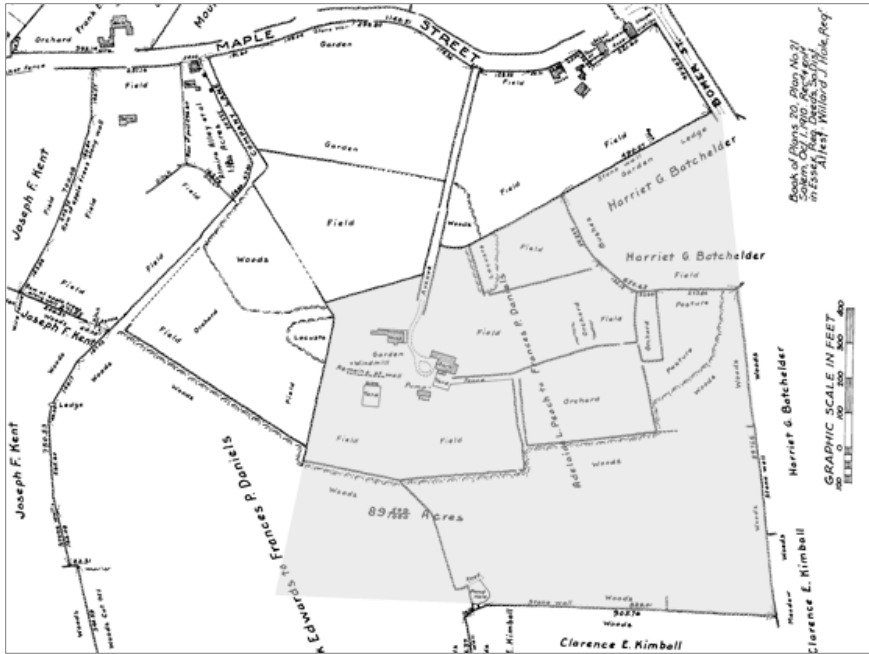


Figure 1.30. The upland portion of the Thomas Spooner Farm superimposed on a map from 1910. The stone walls shown here correspond to the Spooner Farm’s boundary measurements that were recorded in 1695, and thereby allow us to site the farm—and the southern boundary of the Phineas Fiske Farm—with conviction.¹³⁴

¹³⁴ Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 (“Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham,” 1910); shading added.

previously lived in Salem. Interestingly, Denman sold the parcels the very same day, for the same price he paid (*i.e.*, without turning a profit) to Walter Price (*ca.*1613–1674), a shopkeeper of Salem.¹³⁵

Samuel Porter (? –1659) bought the property and built a house on it in 1658. He died the next year, though, on a trip to Barbados. The inventory of his estate was taken in 1660 and included “one house and land at Wenham & other land that was bought of Jno. Denham” valued at £250.¹³⁶ Samuel’s toddler son John (1658–1753) inherited the farm, and decades later (1723) gave it to his own son John Jr.¹³⁷ (John Sr.’s claim to fame: He and his wife

135 Essex County Deeds 1:36 (Thomas Spooner to John Denman [Jr.], 1657; and John Denman [Jr.] to Walter Price, 1657). Harriet Newell Harris, *Denman Family History* (The Glendale News: Glendale, CA, 1913), 4–6; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss), 6 (1925):161; and Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 2: 1232.

Spooner’s deed to Denman did not identify any abutters. Denman’s deed to Price only identified one abutter (James Moulton), but without specifying where Moulton’s property was sited vis-à-vis the Denman lot. See also Essex County Deeds 44:226 (James Moulton to James Friend, 1688[9]) for a reference to the Denman-Moulton boundary.

136 Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 2 (1912):192; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 1 (1916):306. Notice the reference to the land having been “bought of Jno. Denham.” Did Denman purchase the property *back* from Walter Price, and then resell it to Samuel Porter?

137 Essex County Deeds 89:19 (John Porter to John Porter Jr., 1723). See also Porter (1878), 235–237, 245, 258–259.

John Porter (1658–1753) recorded the boundaries of his 40-acre lot, and its previous ownership by Thomas Spooner, with the town of Wenham in 1695:

At a meeting of the committee Dec 26th 1695 for the settling of bounds of lands: they having been upon the place do allow of farmer John Porters bounds of forty acres in the right of Thomas Spooner of forty acres as followeth viz. beginning at the white Oak southerly of Samuel Fisks’ house anciently marked on four sides and from thence 74 poles to a white oak marked on four sides and from thence turning Southeasterly 45½ poles or thereabouts to a walnut tree marked on four sides and from thence turning Northeasterly to a maple stump and heap of stones 92 poles or thereabouts which is James Friends bounds of forty acres and from thence turning Northwestwardly to the bounds first mentioned 108 poles ½ or thereabouts[.]

Town of Wenham, *MS Town Records, Vol. 2*, MS, 9 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Town Records, frame 14), Robert O. Corcoran transcription. This record was also transcribed at Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 21, but erroneously rendered “Samuel Fisks’ house” as “Samuel and Taylor’s Fisks’ house.”

For subsequent history of the house lot, see Essex County Probate 22442 (Daniel Porter, 1760), Widow’s Dower (1761). See Essex County Deeds 116:175 (John Porter [Jr.] to George

Lydia (Herrick) Porter (1661–1727) testified against Wenham resident Goody Bibber during the Salem Witchcraft Trials.¹³⁸

Continued on p. 82

Dodge, 1763), first parcel; 114:223 (George Dodge to [Dr.] William Fairfield, 1763), first parcel; 127:248 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to John Porter [Jr.], 1765); 136:6 (Tarrant Putnam *et al.* to George Crowninshield, 1777); 156:209 (Eunice Porter *et al.* to George Crowninshield, 1777); 148:223 (George Crowninshield to Thomas Clark, 1788); 148:224 (Thomas Clark to John Baker Jr., 1789); 166:230 (John Baker [Jr.] to Benjamin Potter, 1800); 199:86 (Benjamin Potter to Joseph White, 1805); 240:137 (Joseph White to Paul Porter, 1826); 256:44 (Paul Porter to Richard Kent, 1829); 256:44 (Richard Kent to Paul Porter, mortgage, 1830); 305:293 (Richard Kent to Henry S. Kent, 1838); 306:214 (Henry S. Kent to Nathaniel Kimball, 1838); 485:258 (Nathaniel Kimball to Robert R. Kent, 1853); 509:50 (Robert R. Kent to Henry S. Kent, 1855); 509:51 (Henry S. Kent to Robert R. Kent, mortgage, 1855); 878:97 (Henry S. Kent to James N. Clark, 1873); 878:171 (James N. Clark to Solomon H. Holbrook, mortgage, 1873); 878:172 (James N. Clark to Edith M. Clark, mortgage, 1873); 1254:82 (James N. Clark to George A. Woodbury 2nd, 1889); 1312:58 (George A. Woodbury 2nd to William N. Moulton, 1891); 1322:258 (William N. Moulton to Clarence O. Moulton, 1891); 1573:389 (Clarence O. Moulton to Adelaide L. Peach, 1899); 2025:12 (Benjamin F. and Adelaide L. Peach to Frances P. Daniels, 1910); 2968:190 (Frances P. Daniels to Mary B. Amory, 1933), first parcel; and 4775:417 (Mary B. Amory to Henry S. and Mary Ann Streeter, 1961), first parcel. See also Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 (“Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham,” 1910); Plan 96:35 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Owned by Mary B. Amory,” 1960); and Plan 1961:576 (“Plan Showing Pole Locations on Property of John Amory, Wenham, Mass.,” 1961).

A photograph of the house (“Old Farm”) appears in Cole (1943) facing her p. 48. Although Cole attempted to list Wenham’s seventeenth-century houses (her p. 45), she only identified five in the whole town. The Porter-Crowninshield House and Newman-Fiske-Dodge House were the only ones identified by her along Maple and Cherry Streets (albeit by different names). She dated the Porter-Crowninshield House to “c. 1680.”

138 W. Elliot Woodward, *Records of Salem Witchcraft, Copied From the Original Documents* (Roxbury, MA: Privately Printed, 1864), 2:203-204; Upham, 2 (1867):207; and Porter (1878), 236.



Figure 1.31. The Porter-Crowninshield House, photographed before 1873, from the southeast. A seventeenth-century house built on the site of (and perhaps incorporating?) the Samuel Porter House, the house displays a saltbox form, skim-coated brick chimney, shallow eaves, shingle roofing and siding, 6-over-6 windows on the second floor, 6-over-9 windows on the first floor, an entry that projects from the plane of the long wall (with gable roof), and a bulkhead entry to the cellar. The driveway is visible in the lower right-hand corner. The gentleman in the photograph is probably Col. Henry S. Kent (1796–1880).¹³⁹

¹³⁹ Gragg (1900), 6-7. Gragg's caption reads: "The Colonel Kent House in West Wenham, Mass., (Before Alterations) Supposed to be a Duplicate of the Old Hooker House in Wenham." His reference to "the Old Hooker House" is for the Joseph Hacker House discussed at pages 42-43 of this text. According to Gragg, the photograph was taken "before General Peach recently altered it for a summer residence."



Figure 1.32. The Porter-Crowninshield House, photographed 1900, from the southeast. This is the same house that appears in Figure 1.31—after an expansion program commissioned by Gen. Benjamin and Adelaide L. (Coffin) Peach. In a striking transformation, the saltbox profile was replaced by a gambrel-roofed profile with two full stories.¹⁴⁰

Attribution of the date of the photograph to “before 1873” is based on the assumption that the man in the photograph is indeed Col. Kent. He sold this house in April 1873, per Essex County Deeds 878:97 (Henry S. Kent to James N. Clark, 1873).

140 Photographed September 27, 1900 by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921). Image courtesy of the Wenham Museum, Wenham, Massachusetts, B. H. Conant Collection, Plate #01754. The Conant Collection includes additional photographs of the house and property. This image and the image in Figure 1.31 previously appeared on Josephs and Heitz (1992), 0:37:08 and 0:38:45.

The Porter-Crowninshield House (Figures 1.31-1.32) at 9 Maple Street stands on the site where Samuel Porter built his house in 1658, and might incorporate Porter's house.¹⁴¹ "Porter's Road" (Figures 1.11, 1.27 and 1.30, labeled as "Avenue") probably dates from the 1650s, when Samuel Porter built his house. It was upgraded to a town-maintained road in 1711, and we know this road today as the driveway for 9 Maple Street.¹⁴²

The John Fairfield Farm

Figure 1.4, Farm I

The John Fairfield Farm consisted of about 70 acres of upland to the northeast of the Phineas Fiske Farm and about ten acres in the Great Meadow. A deed from 1690 referred to part of its upland as "that land in the woods." Most of the upland was northeast of the current-day intersection of Topsfield Road and Cherry Street, and a few acres of it were in the current-day Eaton Road area (Figure 1.33). John Fairfield (*ca.*1610–1646), the first owner of the farm, was living in Charlestown, Massachusetts in 1638, moved

141 The oldest part of the current house dates from the seventeenth century, but it is outside the scope of this book to determine how much (if any) of the current house consists of the original 1658 Samuel Porter House. The Massachusetts Historical Commission filing dates the house's construction to "by 1689." See Anne Grady, "First Period Survey: Old Farm," 1986, Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, Inventory No. WNH.122, Massachusetts Historical Commission; Grady cites *North Shore Breeze and Reminder*, August 2, 1929 (a periodical published in Beverly, Massachusetts) as her reference for the "by 1689" date of construction.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission filing includes photographs of molded corner posts and molded prick posts (supporting a longitudinal summer beam). Molded corner and prick posts appear as early as the Blake House, Dorchester, Massachusetts (*ca.*1650). Molded story posts supporting transverse summer beams appear as late as the John Ward House in Salem (1685) and the Stanley-Lake House in Topsfield (*ca.*1680s), but molded posts—prick, story or corner—seem to have fallen out of favor by the 1690s; see Abbott Lowell Cummings, *The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625–1725* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1979), 105-110. Molded prick posts do not appear in the Thomas Kilham House.

142 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 64-65; and Lillie, "Houses & Lands Associated with Lord's Hill" (1984), 26, citing Essex County Deeds 90:153 (Josiah Fairfield to Daniel Porter, 1747). The road was renamed "Kent's Lane" by the 1870s in acknowledgment of the family that owned the property. See Essex County Deeds 833:133 (John E. Tiney to John H. Tiney, 1871); and 1667:390 (John H. Tiney to Adelaide L. Peach, 1902).

to Salem the next year, and was made a freeman in 1640.¹⁴³ Salem granted him his West Wenham farm in 1639.¹⁴⁴ He kept it as open farmland and lived elsewhere, near the current-day shopping plaza on the Hamilton-Wenham town line.¹⁴⁵

Continued on p. 86

143 Paige (1849), 187; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):91; Perley, *History of Salem*, 2 (1926):77, 402; and Wynn Cowan Fairfield, "Descendants of John Fairfield of Wenham" (New York: no publisher, 1953), 1.

144 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 49; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):94. *Town Records of Salem* contains a typographical error that assigns the grant to December 23, 1638. *Book of Grants*, however, clearly shows that the grant was made December 23, 1639. Perley, *History of Salem*, 2 (1926):77 dated the grant to 1639.

In 1686 the town of Wenham granted John's son Walter Fairfield two acres of land in the Great Meadow when it had become apparent that John Fairfield's 80-acre grant didn't actually measure out to 80 acres. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 81, 82.

145 In the 1646 inventory of the estate of John Fairfield, the West Wenham farm was valued at only £6, whereas another tract of land (75 acres of upland and seven acres of meadow) was valued at £21.16s. The West Wenham farm's low valuation indicates that the farm didn't have any buildings on it, and therefore was kept as open farmland. See Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 1 (1911):116–118; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 1 (1916):73–76.

For John Fairfield's residence, see Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):119 (reference to Fairfield's house near the Ipswich (Hamilton)-Wenham town line); and Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 3 (1913):207 (1658 reference to dwelling house and farm "partly in Wenham and partly in Ipswich"). Although the homestead property straddled the Hamilton-Wenham town line abutting Bay Road (Hamilton) and Main Street (Wenham), the house itself was on the Hamilton side of the line. Indeed, Fairfield Drive in Hamilton was named for the Fairfield homestead; see Ganz (2013), 7–8, 46, 65. Ganz cites correspondence from Rupert B. Lillie to Ted Fairfield, July 12, 1982 and February 15, 1983, and correspondence from Lillie to Mrs. J. C. Zeldenrust, February 11, 1986, in which Lillie stated that he had inspected the John Fairfield House before it was demolished in the 1960s. Ganz also cites Alice F. Moody, "Fairfield Note," *Maine Historical Society*, 4; and Lillie, "A Pictorial Map of Wenham and Environs, 1776," (Wenham, MA: no publisher, 1976). In addition, Ganz reproduces a twentieth-century map of the John Fairfield property straddling the Hamilton-Wenham town line, the original of which is housed in the Fairfield Folder, Wenham Museum Library. See also Cole (1943), 13, 16–17, 41.

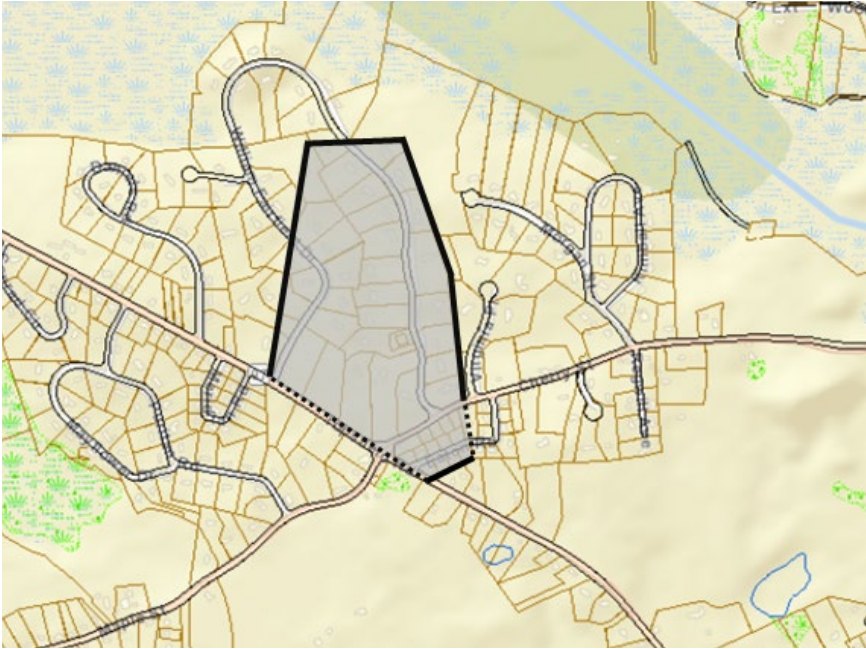


Figure 1.33. The upland portion of the John Fairfield Farm, 1639.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁶ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details, see Appendix B, pages 171-172.

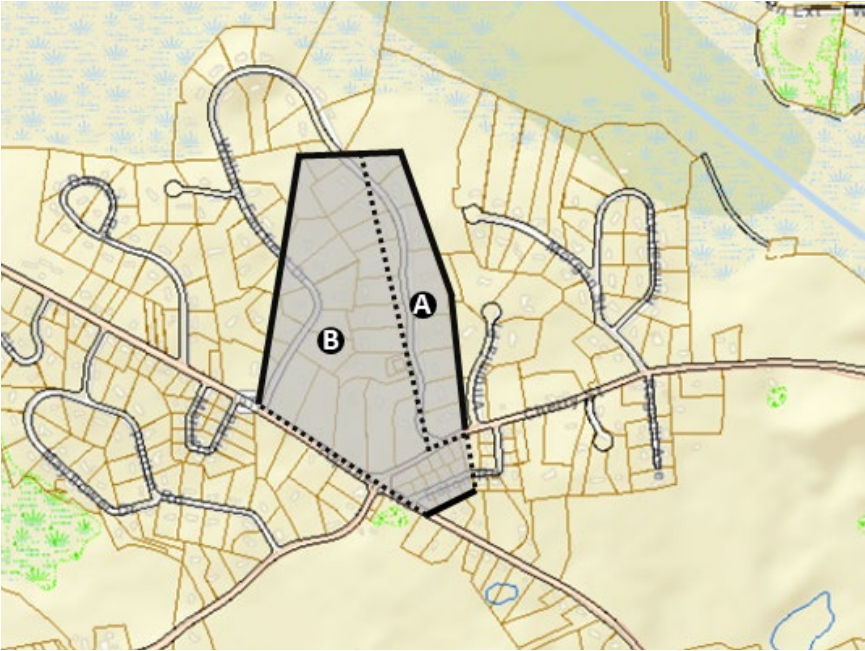


Figure 1.34. Subdivision of the John Fairfield Farm in 1646.¹⁴⁷

- A. To Matthew Edwards, 1646
- B. To Walter, John Jr. and Benjamin Fairfield, 1646

¹⁴⁷ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. We know that Subdivision B included frontage on proto-Cherry Street because in 1689—subsequent to his purchase of Subdivision B but before his purchase of Subdivision A—William Fairfield was identified as a property owner along the road. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 3-4. Furthermore, we know that Subdivision B included the western portion of current-day Eaton Road because William was identified as an abutter here in Essex County Deeds 11:106 (Elizabeth Endicott and John Newman, administrators, to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix, 1692). See also Essex County Deeds 2:69 (Mathew [*sic*] Edwards to William Rainer, 1658[/9]), first parcel; 4:182 (William Rayner [*sic*] to Richard Kemball [*sic*], 1659), first parcel; and 18:40 (John Fairfield [3rd] to William Fairfield, 1694), first parcel.

When Fairfield died in 1646, he left his West Wenham farm to his nephew Matthew Edwards (*ca.*1631–1683) and three sons Walter (bp.1631–1723), John Jr. (1641–1672) and Benjamin Fairfield (1646–1664). Twenty acres went to Edwards, shown as Subdivision A in Figure 1.34.¹⁴⁸ The remaining 60 acres went to the Fairfield boys—about eleven acres in the Great Meadow, and about 49 acres of upland depicted as Subdivision B in Figure 1.34.¹⁴⁹ (At some point somebody determined that the 70:10 split of upland to meadow articulated in Salem’s grant was actually more like 69:11.) Fairfield’s grandson William (1662–1742) bought the twenty-acre parcel in 1685

148 See bequest from John Fairfield to Matthew Edwards in Fairfield’s will (1646) in Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 1 (1911):116–117; Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 1 (1916):73–74; Fairfield (1953), frontispiece, 3–4; and Ganz (2013), 18, 19. For subsequent disposition, see Essex County Deeds 2:69 (Mathew [sic] Edwards to William Rainer, 1658/[9]), first parcel; 4:182 (William Rayner [sic] to Richard Kimball [sic], 1659), first parcel; and 8:185 (Samuel and Thomas Kimball [sic], administrators, to William Fairfield, 1685). See also deed from Samuel and Thomas Kimball, administrators, to William Fairfield, 1685, MS, *Massachusetts Archives Collections* 37:129a. See also Essex County Probate 15724 (Richard Kimball [Jr.], 1676), Inventory, “Twenty Akers [sic] of upland lying by Mr Newmans;” and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 3 (1920):72–74. See also deposition of Walter Fairfield, 1691, MS, *Massachusetts Archives Collections* 37:134.

149 For the 49-acre parcel, see bequest from John Fairfield to his sons in his will (1646), citations for which appear in the preceding footnote; see also Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 2 (1912): 263–264, 292–293. John Fairfield Jr. died intestate, and his interest in his father’s farm (referred to in his estate inventory as “a parcel of meadow in the great meadow, with upland undivided with his Brother, [£]52”) was inherited by his son John Fairfield 3rd. See Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 5 (1916):118; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 2 (1917):307–308. See Essex County Deeds 18:40 (John Fairfield [3rd] to William Fairfield, 1694), first parcel. See also Essex County Deeds 33:197 (John Fairfield [3rd] *et al.* to Daniel Kilham Jr., 1690), providing a reference to property “in the woods” owned jointly by John Fairfield Jr.’s children and their uncle Walter Fairfield. (Interestingly, Essex County Deeds 33:197 wasn’t the record of the transfer of title of land. Rather, this deed recorded Daniel Kilham Jr.’s right to cut timber on the Fairfield’s property.) Although Walter Fairfield owned this property jointly with his brother John Jr., there’s no deed recorded in which Walter conveyed his interest to his son William Fairfield.

For genealogy, see Baldwin (1912), 519 (death of Benjamin Fairfield); Raymon Meyers Tingley, *Some Ancestral Lines: Being a Record of Some of the Ancestors of Guilford Solon Tingley and His Wife Martha Pamela Meyers* (Rutland, VT: Tuttle Publishing Company, 1935), 189; Fairfield (1953), 1–2, 8–9, 10, 11, 15; and Ganz (2013), Chapters 1–4.

and the Great Meadow and upland parcels in 1694, reuniting the farm.¹⁵⁰ He built a house near the current-day intersection of Cherry Street and Topsfield

Continued on p. 90

150 For subsequent history of William Fairfield's house lot, see Essex County Deeds 84:121 (William Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, 1738); 147:154 (Benjamin Fairfield to Samuel and Joseph Fairfield, 1780); 152:69, 158 (Joseph Fairfield *vs.* Samuel Fairfield, 1790); 162:164 (Joseph Fairfield to [Rev.] John Fairfield, 1797), first parcel; 164:103 (Samuel Fairfield to Joseph Fairfield, 1798), first parcel; 191:242 (Rev. John Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield *et al.*, 1811); 191:242 (Benjamin Fairfield *et al.* to David Woodbury, 1811), first parcel; 191:243 (David Woodbury to Rev. John Fairfield, 1811); 232:175 (Ichabod Fairfield *et al.* to David Woodbury, 1823); 232:280 (David Woodbury to Mark Symons, mortgage, 1823), first parcel; 525:165 (Sarah Woodbury, administratrix, to Mark Symons, 1855); 525:166 (Mark Symons to B[enjamin] C. and J[ohn] A. Putnam, 1856); 527:146 (Benjamin C. and John A. Putnam to George W. Kimball, 1856); 633:244 (George W. Kimball to Elisha H. Towne, 1860), first parcel; 633:251 (Elisha H. Towne to Almon F. Bagley, 1862), first parcel; 1076:51 (Louisa N. Bagley *et al.* to William W. Goodwin, 1882); 1108:89 (William W. Goodwin to Isaac A. Lamson, 1883); 1108:89 (Isaac A. Lamson to Mary A. Goodwin, 1883); 1398:422 (Sarah P. Towne to William W. Goodwin, discharge, 1894); 1398:422 (William W. and Mary A. Goodwin to Harriet A. Hodgdon, 1894); 1398:424 (Harriet A. Hodgdon to Mary A. Goodwin, mortgage, 1894); 1676:187 (Leander F. and Harriet A. Hodgdon to Lester E. Libby, 1902); 1682:97 (Lester E. Libby to Wolcott H. Johnson, 1902); 2658:19 (William Endicott and Edward B. Bayley, trustees, to Mona H. Tucker, 1925), first parcel; 2729:392 (Randolph F. and Mona House Tucker to Glenn C. Bramble, 1927), first parcel; 2729:394 (Glenn C. Bramble to Randolph F. and Mona House Tucker, 1927), first parcel; 6748:216 (Reynold B. Nippe, trustee, to Tucker Wenham Corp., 1980); 6837:712 (Tucker Wenham Corp. to Lawrence D. and Susan M. Lorenzo, 1981); and 6954:20 (Lawrence D. and Susan M. Lorenzo to Timothy M. and Deborah L. McKenna, 1982). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 1682:600 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Sold to Wolcott H. Johnson by Lester E. Libby," 1902); 157:85 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Estate of Randolph F. Tucker," 1980); Plan 161:1 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, MA, Prepared for B. Nippe," 1980); and Plan 165:77 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, MA, Prepared for Reynold B. Nippe," 1981). See also Essex County Probate 9198 (William Fairfield, 1743), Will, a transcription of which is in Appendix D.



Figure 1.35. Former driveway to the William Fairfield House, Cherry Street.¹⁵¹

¹⁵¹ December 5, 2015 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The former driveway is on the lot at the corner of Cherry Street and William Fairfield Drive. The street address for this location is 4 William Fairfield Drive.

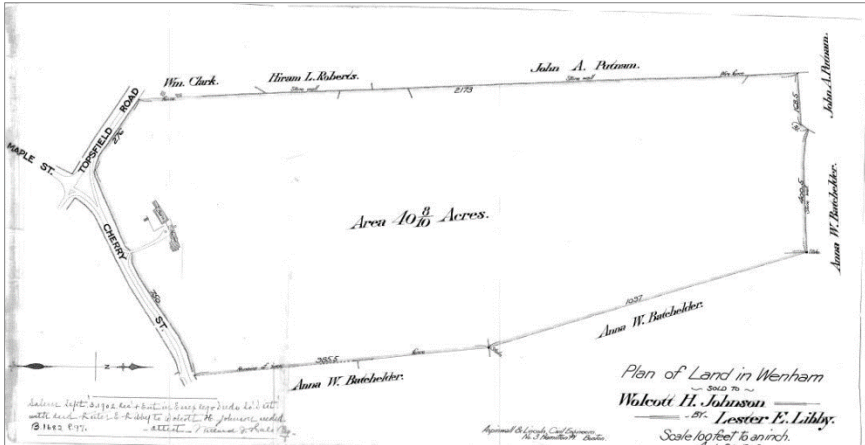


Figure 1.36. Site of the William Fairfield House, 1902. Fairfield's house was demolished by 1878, and the house shown in this plan was built on its site.¹⁵²

¹⁵² Essex County Deeds Plan 1682:600 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Sold to Wolcott H. Johnson by Lester E. Libby," 1902). The house was still standing in 1872 (see D. G. Beers & Co. (1872), plate 95, "A. Bagley" House), but was demolished by 1878 (see Pool, "Inscriptions from the Old Fairfield Burial Ground in Wenham," *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, 16 (1879):69).

Road, probably around 1687 (Figures 1.35-1.36).¹⁵³ His barn was adjacent to the north side of proto-Cherry Street, near the shared boundary of the William Fiske Sr. Farm.¹⁵⁴

William would later become an early owner of the Thomas Kilham House and owner of part of the former Lord's Hill Commons; we'll see more of him in Chapter 3 (Volume 2).

The William Fiske Sr. Farm

Figure 1.4, Farm J

William Fiske Sr. (ca.1614–1654) and his brother Rev. John Fiske left England in 1637, arriving in Salem. They were the sons of Phineas Fiske's first cousin (see Figure 1.13) and had been living in St. James, South Elmham, Suffolk.¹⁵⁵ The town of Salem granted William 100 acres of upland and ten acres of meadow in West Wenham in 1639. The 100-acre upland abutted the John Fairfield Farm on the west; Wenham Swamp on the north; the William Wellman Farm on the east; and the James Moulton Farm on the south.¹⁵⁶

153 The ca.1687 construction date is based on genealogy and the early presence of a family cemetery. William probably married in 1687, based on the fact that his daughter Sarah was born in 1688. (Although Sarah's birth was not recorded with the Wenham town clerk, her gravestone tells us that she died in 1705 in the eighteenth year of her life.) Reinforcing the theory that William built his house around the time of his marriage is the fact that, in 1691, William and Esther (----) Fairfield buried their infant son William Jr. in a family cemetery *on the property*, William Jr.'s gravestone being the oldest surviving gravestone in that cemetery. See Pool, "Inscriptions from the Old Fairfield Burial Ground in Wenham" (1879):69-70; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 197; Cole (1943), 77; and Ganz (2013), Chapter 5.

It is clear that William built his Cherry Street house before 1693. On March 16, 1692/3 William filed suit against John Fairfield 3rd, claiming that John had poached timber from William's West Wenham property near the site of William's house. See William Fairfield *vs.* John Fairfield [3rd], March 16, 1692/3, *Massachusetts Archives Collections* 37:129-137, especially 130-130a.

Although William received a timber grant for fencing materials, there's no record of him receiving a timber grant for use in building a house. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 173 for William's 1699 timber grant for fencing materials.

154 Essex County Deeds 79:157 (exchange of land between William Fairfield and Daniel Fiske, 1737). Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 101; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 18-19.

155 Fiske (1867), 185, 190; and Moriarty (1934), 272-273.

156 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 44; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 89. Grant made August 8, 1639. See also Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):72 for William's 1638 request for a ten-acre lot. William's abutters to the upland are identified in Essex County Deeds 13:184 (Edward Kemp to [Rev.] Antipas Newman, 1658), second parcel.

About seventy-five acres were north of current-day Cherry Street and the rest were south (Figure 1.37). William became a freeman in 1642. The owner of a tavern in Wenham in 1643 (the location of which hasn't been identified), he was Wenham's first town clerk, and represented Wenham in the General Court in 1647, 1649, 1650 and 1652.¹⁵⁷

William sold his West Wenham farm to Edward Kemp (? –1668), but Kemp didn't record the deed and therefore we don't know when the transaction happened.¹⁵⁸ Kemp moved to Chelmsford, Massachusetts in 1655¹⁵⁹ and three years later sold the West Wenham farm—along with other properties he owned in Wenham—to Rev. Antipas Newman (? –1672) (Rev. Newman would later buy the William Osbourne Farm, discussed earlier in this chapter.)

Newman died in 1672,¹⁶⁰ and his estate disposed of the former William Fiske Sr. Farm in at least three transactions, only two of which were recorded with the registry of deeds. Twenty acres were sold in 1692 (twenty years after Newman's death) to William Fiske's son Samuel Fiske (the tailor) and stepson

157 Paige (1849), 189; Shurtleff, 3 (1854):105, 147, 183, 259; Allen (1860), 28-30, 102, 103; Pierce (1896), 56-57; and Perley, *History of Salem*, 2 (1926):403.

John Shipley sold a house, outhouse and ten acres of land in Wenham near the First Meeting House to William Fiske of Wenham. The deed for this transaction was dated 1655, per Essex County Deeds 1:27 (John Shipley to William Fiske, 1655). It seems highly unlikely that the buyer was William Fiske Jr. (1643–1728), since he would have been only 11 or 12 years old. If, as apparently was the case, the buyer was his father William Sr. (ca.1614–1654), then one wonders whether there was a transcription error when the deed was recorded. See also Rev. Wilson Waters, *History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts* (Lowell, MA: The Courier-Citizen Company, 1917), 26.

158 William died in 1654 intestate. For the inventory of his estate, see Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 1 (1911):364-365; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 1 (1916):188-189.

159 Cutter, *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs, Relating to the Families of the State of Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1910), 4:2171.

160 For the inventory of the estate of Rev. Antipas Newman, see Essex County Probate 19410 (Antipas Newman, 1673); Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 5 (1916):158; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 2 (1917):324-325.

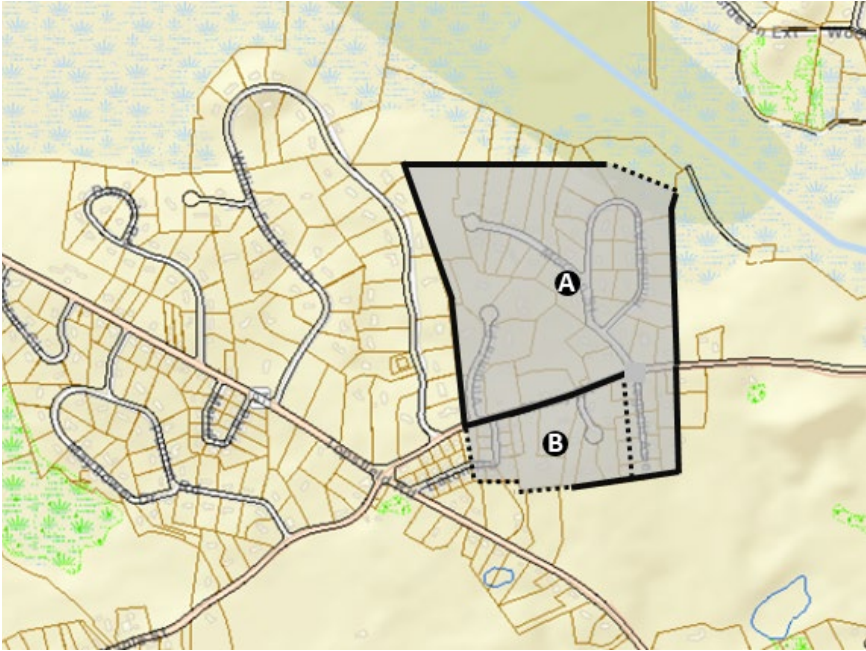


Figure 1.37. The upland portion of the William Fiske Sr. Farm, 1639, and its earliest subdivision.¹⁶¹

- A. John Newman to William Fiske Jr., 1696, and other unrecorded transaction(s) prior to 1692
- B. Heirs of Rev. Antipas Newman to Samuel Fiske (the tailor) and Theophilus Rix, 1692

¹⁶¹ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details, see Appendix B, pages 173-182. According to a 1693 description of an abutting property to the north, the northern boundary of the William Fiske Sr. Farm was the same line as the northern boundary of the John Fairfield Farm; see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687-1706* (1940), 7. See also *ibid.*, 36, for a 1704 grant of two acres from the town of Wenham, adjacent to the northern boundary.

Theophilus Rix.¹⁶² Sixty acres to the north of this were sold in 1696 to William Fiske Jr.¹⁶³ This leaves twenty acres unaccounted for; based on a review of the abutters in the 1692 and 1696 deeds, it appears that the “missing” 20 acres were sold to William Fiske Jr. prior to the 1692 transaction.

The William Fiske Sr. Farm became the locus of four First Period houses. The first of these was the house now known as the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House at 162 Cherry Street (Figure 1.38), and it is reasonable to believe that this house was built by Rev. Newman by 1672.¹⁶⁴ The age of the oldest part of the existing structure is an open question, however, that probably cannot

162 Essex County Deeds 11:106 (Elizabeth Endicott and John Newman, administrators, to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix, 1692). This transaction was confirmed with a quitclaim from Rev. Newman’s grandson in 1721; see Essex County Deeds 37:254 (John Newman [Jr.] to Theophilus Rix and Daniel Fiske, 1721). There is no mention of any buildings in the 1692 deed or in the 1721 quitclaim.

163 Essex County Deeds 37:224 (John Newman to William Fiske [Jr.], 1696). See also Pierce (1896), 69. The parcel abutted land of William Fairfield on the west; William Fiske Jr. and Wenham Swamp on the north; John Batchelder Sr. on the east; and William Fiske Jr., Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix on the south. Indeed, the parcel sold to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix in 1692 appears to be one of the abutting properties on the south. This transaction also included the sale of ten acres in the Great Meadow. It was confirmed with a quitclaim from Rev. Newman’s grandson in 1721; see Essex County Deeds 37:255 (John Newman [Jr.] to William Fiske [Jr.], 1721). There is no mention of any buildings in the 1696 deed or in the 1721 quitclaim.

164 When Newman died in 1672 he owned a number of pieces of real estate, including two West Wenham farms that each consisted of 100 acres of upland and ten acres of meadow. The William Fiske Sr. Farm was one of these, and the William Osbourne Farm was the other. The Fiske Farm was appraised at £160 while the Osbourne Farm was appraised at £70. Although the estate inventory doesn’t specifically mention a house, the £90 difference in the values of these two farms could suggest the presence of a house and a barn on the William Fiske Sr. Farm.

It is clear from the inventory of Newman’s estate that Newman did not live on the William Fiske Sr. Farm, since the inventory has a separate line item for Newman’s homestead (appraised at £160). The homestead was located in the Plains in Wenham, near the Ipswich town line, and was sold in two transactions (six acres in 1694, and fifteen acres with house and barn in 1703); see Essex County Deeds 15:277 (John Newman, administrator, to Joseph Fowler [Jr.], 1694), and 280 (John Newman to John Porter, 1703). The Plains was also known as “the Plainfields,” and referred to an area near current-day Arbor and Perkins Streets; see Phillips (1938), 107 and Wenham Historical Association & Museum (1992), 137.

Given the absence of any mention of buildings in the 1692 and 1696 deeds (footnotes 162 and 163), one can conclude that the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House was built on the “missing” twenty-acre lot.

be resolved without dendrochronology.¹⁶⁵ William Fiske Jr. (1643–1728)—whom we met in the context of the subdivision of the Phineas Fiske Farm, the man sometimes referred to by his title of deacon and other times by his title of lieutenant—acquired the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House and made it his home.¹⁶⁶ A member of the jury that heard the Salem Witchcraft Trials, William Jr. lived here at the time of the trials.¹⁶⁷

165 When researching the house in 1977, Rupert Lillie cited a 1696 timber grant to William Fiske Jr. as evidence of the timing of a building-expansion project. Lillie asserted that the original house was built by Newman “as a tenant farmhouse” around the year 1658—but without providing any evidence for so early a date. See Grady, “First Period Survey: Newman-Fiske-Dodge House,” 1985, Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, Inventory No. WNH.116, Massachusetts Historical Commission.

166 For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 26:259 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Ebenezer Fiske, 1712); and Essex County Probate 9522 (William Fisk[e], 1728), Will, bequest to Ebenezer Fiske. Bequeathed by Ebenezer Fiske to his son William Fiske (1726–1777), per Essex County Probate 9496 (Ebenezer Fisk[e], 1771), Will and Inventory, 33½-acre homestead. To Israel Andrews Dodge (bp.1749–1823), but deed not recorded. Probably sold by William Fiske to Dodge in 1771, 1772 or 1773 when Fiske sold other West Wenham properties; see Essex County Deeds 133:92 (William Fiske to William Webber, 1773); 134:116 (William Fiske to Amos Batchelder, 1772); 134:119 (William Fiske to [Dr.] William Fairfield, 1771); and 134:224 (William Fiske to Josiah Herrick, 1773). See Essex County Probate 7868 (Israel A. Dodge, 1823), Will (1822), bequest to Esther Barnes and Nancy Wilkins, and Inventory (1823), 150-acre homestead.

See Essex County Deeds 252:183 (Polly Dodge to Uzziel Rea, mortgage, 1829), about 40 acres; 260:179 (Esther Barnes *et al.* to Uzziel Rea, mortgage, 1831), first parcel; 265:123 (Esther Barnes *et al.* to Israel D. Barnes, 1831), first parcel; 266:182 (Israel D. Barnes to Abraham Patch, 1832), first parcel; 925:70 (Abraham Patch to Mary Welch, 1875), first parcel; 925:70 (Horace and Mary Welch to Danvers Savings Bank, mortgage, 1875), first parcel; 1210:216 (Horace and Mary Welch to Anna W. Batchelder, 1887), first parcel; 2373:123 (Frank S. Prince *et al.* to Emma Weatherbee and Luther W. Batchelder, 1917), first parcel; 2666:263 (Luther W. Batchelder and Emma Weatherbee to Henry A. and Helen W. Erhard, 1925); 2666:264 (Henry A. and Helen W. Erhard to Luther W. Batchelder and Emma Weatherbee, mortgage, 1925); 2921:193 (Henry A. Erhard creation of the Helen Weber Erhard Trust, 1923); 6070:378 (Trustees of Helen Weber Erhard Trust to Ronald J. and Jo Ann N. Morris, 1974); 6836:233 (Ronald J. and Jo Ann N. Morris to David C. and Mara P. Scott deSieves, 1981); and 10048:93 (David C. and Mara P. Scott deSieves to Harriet P. Davis, 1989). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 1974:216 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Helen W. Erhard *et al.* Trs.,” 1974); and Plan 197:55 (“Definitive Subdivision Plan of Stage Hill Estates in Wenham, Mass.,” 1985), sheet 2, for an outline of the house, barn and shed, and their orientation to Cherry Street.

Cole (1943) included a photograph of the house facing her p. 46. Identified as the residence of Henry Erhard, Cole called it the Fisk[e]-Patch-Batchelder House.

167 Upham, 2 (1867):474-475.



Figure 1.38. The Newman-Fiske-Dodge House, photographed 1900, from the southeast. The oldest section of the house was likely built before 1672. Of saltbox form, the house displays a brick chimney, shallow eaves, shingle roofing, clapboard siding, 2-over-2 windows, and a bulkhead entry to the cellar. An ell extends from the east wall of the main part of the house.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁸ Photographed September 19, 1900 by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921). Image courtesy of the Wenham Museum, Wenham, Massachusetts, B. H. Conant Collection, Plate #01744. This image previously appeared on Josephs and Heitz (1992), 0:30:10; and in Janes (2011), 59.

In 1712 William Jr. conveyed the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House to his son Ebenezer Fiske (1679–1771), William Jr. continuing to live in the house until his death in 1728. The house was accompanied by land on both sides of proto-Cherry Street. While Ebenezer kept the property south of proto-Cherry Street until he died, he eventually sold his land north of the road other than the area immediately around his house.¹⁶⁹

William Jr. and his wife Sarah (Kilham) Fiske had six sons who married. One of their sons, Joseph, bought a house from Joseph's father-in-law.¹⁷⁰ But each of the other Fiske sons were fortunate enough to receive a house from William Fiske Jr. We have just seen that Ebenezer Fiske received the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House and farm in 1712. And we have already seen that Samuel Fiske (the weaver) also received a house and farm in 1712, and that William Fiske 3rd received his farm and possibly a house perhaps as early as 1695. As for the other two sons, both received houses from their father on subdivisions of the former William Fiske Sr. Farm: Benjamin Fiske (1674–1742) received the Fiske-Ober House and farm in 1703; and Theophilus Fiske (1676–1759) received his house and farm in 1712. (Clearly, 1712 was the year when William Jr., aged 69, was doing some estate planning.)

Benjamin Fiske married Mary Quarles (*ca.* 1679–1745) in 1699,¹⁷¹ and four years later William Jr. conveyed to him a house, barn and 25 acres. Benjamin was already living in the house, so we can hypothesize that William Jr. built it for him about the year that Benjamin married. Acquired by Josiah Ober (1719–1797) in 1748, the Ober family owned the Fiske-Ober House for about 140 years before it burned in 1889.¹⁷² Standing near current-day 140 Cherry Street and facing due south, the house was originally one room deep with an overhanging second floor, and eventually acquired a lean-to at the back (Figures 1.39–1.40).

169 Essex County Deeds 26:259 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Ebenezer Fiske, 1712); and Essex County Probate 9522 (William Fisk[e], 1728), Will, bequest to Ebenezer Fiske. See Subdivisions E and F in Figure B.11, Appendix B.

170 Essex County Deeds 13:125 (John Warner to Joseph Fiske, 1698).

171 Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 119, 160, 198.

172 Essex County Deeds 26:199 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Benjamin Fiske, 1703); and 147:247 (Ebenezer Fiske to Josiah Ober, 1748). For boundaries of Benjamin Fiske's farm and subsequent history, including history of the Fiske-Ober House, see Appendix B, pages 173–175.



Figure 1.39. The Fiske-Ober House, photographed 1869, from the southwest. The house is decorated for the fortieth birthday of Julia (Ober) Pinkham (1829–1890). Of saltbox form, the house displays a brick chimney, shallow eaves, shingle roofing and perhaps shingle siding. Second-floor windows are 6-over-6, while first-floor windows are 8-over-12. The overhanging second floor is especially noteworthy: It is shallow along the long (south-facing) wall but deeper along the west-facing gable wall, and stops where the lean-to begins. To the right, the white triangular shape blocking the view of the house’s southeast corner is a tent. To the left, a small barn is visible in the background.¹⁷³

¹⁷³ Unidentified photographer, 1869; 1908 copy by Benjamin H. Conant (1843–1921). Image courtesy of the Wenham Museum, Wenham, MA, B. H. Conant Collection, X2014.829. This image previously appeared on Josephs and Heitz (1992), 0:27:19; and in Wenham Historical Association & Museum (1992), 125.

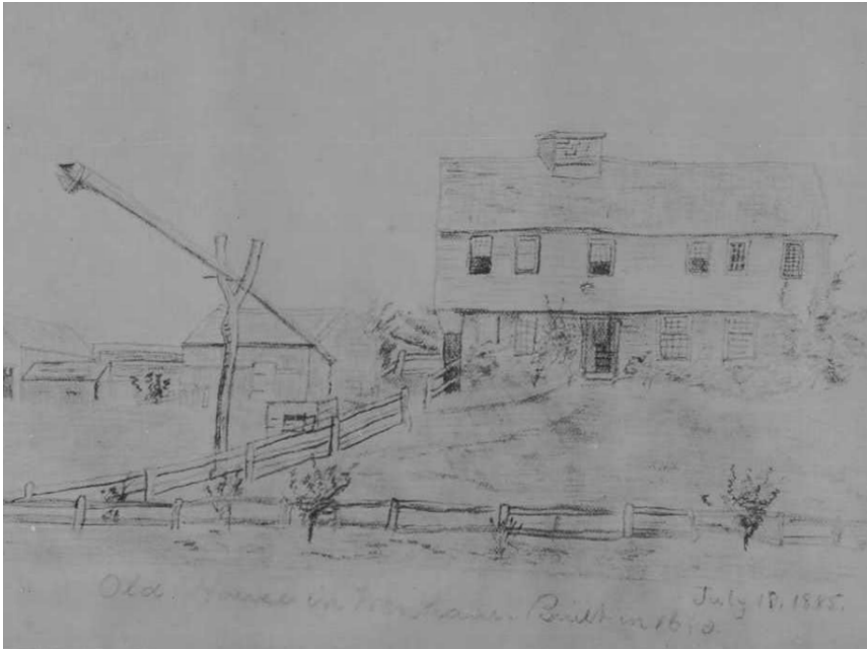


Figure 1.40. The Fiske-Ober House, 1885 drawing by W. H. Kielhaue. This image, which shows the house from the south, exaggerates the asymmetry of the house's façade, particularly with regard to the placement of the chimney. It shows an overhanging second floor, with a rather deep overhang along the west-facing wall. The image includes a view of the outbuildings that is abbreviated in the 1869 photograph.¹⁷⁴

¹⁷⁴ Image courtesy of the Wenham Museum, Wenham, Massachusetts, drawing, X2010.597. The drawing is inscribed "Old House in Wenham Built in 1680" and is dated July 18, 1885. Kielhaue has yet to be identified.

The Theophilus Fiske Farm was a gift of 22 acres. Theophilus was already living on this farm when he received it in 1712. His house may have been built around the year 1700, which is the year he married Phoebe Lamson (1673–1753). It was near the current-day terminus of Morgan Street, and last appeared in the historical record in 1785.¹⁷⁵

Turning our attention from the portion of the William Fiske Sr. Farm that was north of proto-Cherry Street to the portion that was south, we come now to the Theophilus Rix House. Theophilus Rix's property straddled the current-day intersection of Cherry Street and Stage Hill Road. It was part of the twenty acres that he and his stepbrother Samuel Fiske (the tailor) bought in 1692 from the estate of Rev. Newman.¹⁷⁶ The house itself was to the east

175 For genealogy, see Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 119, 141, 198; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Ipswich, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1910), 1:233 and 2:163, 271.

For boundaries and history of Theophilus Fiske's Farm, see Appendix B. Subdivisions B and C (Figure B.11) constituted the 22-acre gift. Theophilus also acquired Subdivision D, but he didn't record his deed.

176 Essex County Deeds 11:106 (Elizabeth Endicott and John Newman, administrators, to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix, 1692). See also Essex County Deeds 37:254 (John Newman [Jr.] to Theophilus Rix and Daniel Fiske, 1721). For boundaries, see Appendix B, page 180.

For subsequent history of Rix's house lot, see Essex County Deeds 57:58 (Theophilus Rix to James Rix, 1726); 66:94 (James Rix to Samuel Batchelder, 1734), first parcel; 74:127 (Samuel Batchelder to Benjamin Batchelder, 1737), first parcel; and 88:40 (Benjamin Batchelder to Bartholomew Dodge, 1744). Bartholomew Dodge to Israel Andrews Dodge by 1788 but deed not recorded; see reference to Israel Andrews Dodge's land in 147:227 (Benjamin Friend to John Dodge, 1788). See Essex County Deeds 168:87 (Israel Andrews Dodge to Oliver Dodge, 1800), first parcel; 168:88 (Oliver Dodge to Israel Andrews Dodge, mortgage, 1800), first parcel; 213:152 (Oliver Dodge to Israel Andrews Dodge, 1817), first parcel; 230:78 (Israel A. Dodge to Henry Towne, 1822); 233:286 (Henry Towne to Uzziel Rea, mortgage, 1823); 275:112 (Benjamin Merrill to Thomas Kimball [3rd], in trust for Ezra and Nancy Shattuck, 1834), first parcel; 601:30 (Ezra and Nancy Shattuck to David S. Shattuck, 1860); 626:79 (David S. Shattuck to Henry A. White, 1861); 626:80 (Henry A. White to Abby M. Shattuck, 1861); 795:23 (David S. and Abby M. Shattuck to Sarah Jeffreys [sic], 1870); 819:232 (John and Sarah Jeffrey [sic] to George Flint, 1871); 851:226 (George Flint to Charles F. Flint, mortgage, 1872); 1223:36 (Caleb Buffum, administrator, to Caroline Hood, 1888); 1356:413 (Caroline Hood to John F. Flint, 1888); 1612:521 (John F. Flint to Caroline Hood, 1900); 1646:451 (Caroline Hood to Emily M. Currier, 1901); 3004:125 (Emily M. Currier to Donald E. Currier 1934), second parcel; 3103:176 (Donald E. Currier to Dorothea W. Currier, 1937); 3120:359 (Benjamin W. and Dorothea W. Currier to William G. Cavanagh, 1937); 3262:443 (William G. Cavanagh to John E. and Helen B. Arnold, 1941); 3286:78 (William G. Cavanagh to M. Doris Poor, 1942); 3507:360 (William G. Cavanagh to M. Doris Poor, 1946); 3594:140 (John E. and Helen B. Arnold to M. Doris Poor, 1948); 7575:532 (Peter Poor vs. M. Doris Poor, 1984); 7642:58 (Francis B. and Alice M. Carleton vs. Peter F. and M. Doris Poor, 1984); 7770:165 (M. Doris Poor to Paul E. and Joyce B. Egan, 1985); 7906:36 (Paul

of this intersection.¹⁷⁷ Theophilus built his house by 1704.¹⁷⁸ It was still standing as late as 1884,¹⁷⁹ but was gone by 1910.¹⁸⁰

The William Wellman Farm

Figure 1.4, Farm K

William Wellman (b? – d?) is an enigma. He didn't leave a footprint in those parts of the historical record where other West Wenham grantees did: There's no mention of him in the Salem or Wenham town records or vital records, nothing of him in Essex County probate files, and no Essex County deed recording land that he purchased or sold. There is a brief mention of a boy named William Wellman in Salem in 1640, who provided testimony in court.¹⁸¹ And there was a William Wellman living in Gloucester about the year 1650—conceivably the same person as the boy who lived in Salem—who moved to New London, Connecticut in 1651.¹⁸²

The only reason we know that there was a William Wellman who owned land in Wenham is that he is identified as an abutter in a 1656 deed recording the sale of land just east of the Straits. That year John Shipley (? –1678)

E. and Joyce B. Egan to R. Hilliard and Catharine B. Ebling, 1985); 8879:42 (Peter Poor *vs.* M. Doris Poor, 1984); and 29765:484 (R. Hilliard and Catharine B. Ebling to Trustees of the R. Hilliard Ebling Revocable Trust, 2010). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 1941:251 ("Plan of Land of Wm. G. Cavanagh on Cherry Street, Wenham, Mass.," 1941); Plan 1942:32 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, M. Doris Poor, Owner," 1941); Plan 119:52 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Belonging to M. Doris Poor," 1971); Plan 123:65 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Massachusetts, Belonging to M. Doris Poor," 1972); and Plan 197:55 ("Definitive Subdivision Plan of Stage Hill Estates in Wenham, Mass.," 1985).

177 For location of the Rix property straddling Flint Street, see Essex County Deeds 66:94 (James Rix to Samuel Batchelder, 1734), first parcel; Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 18–19; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 102, 105–107.

178 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 102.

179 George H. Walker & Co., *Atlas of Essex County* (Boston: G. H. Walker & Co., 1884), 87, "G. Flint" House.

180 *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), plate 34.

181 Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 1 (1911):17. Wellman was identified as "W^m Wellman a boy"—no age given, and no biographical clues provided.

182 John J. Babson, *History of the Town of Gloucester, Cape Ann, Including the Town of Rockport* (Gloucester, MA: Procter Brothers, 1860), 52, 53, 178; Rev. Joshua Wyman Wellman, *Descendants of Thomas Wellman of Lynn, Massachusetts* (Boston: Arthur Holbrook Wellman, 1918), 3–4; and George E. McCracken, "William Spencer's Daughter Elizabeth: The Wellman Family," *The American Genealogist*, 37 (1961):7–9.

sold Richard Kimball Jr. (ca.1623–1676) a parcel of 100 acres bounded “upon Mr. Fiske’s farme [*si*] on ye east & on ye pleasant road on ye north & upon Wm Welman’s [*si*] land on ye west & upon Tho. Brownings farme [*si*] & ye great swamp on the south.”¹⁸³ This description of the upland is a bit problematic, but worth unwinding. Thanks to a couple of depositions made in 1698 and 1699,¹⁸⁴ we can determine that “pleasant road” is a transcription error for “[P]leasant [P]ond,” “ye great swamp” is a reference to the swampy area around Cedar Pond and not instead Wenham Great Swamp, and “Mr. Fiske” was Rev. John Fiske. This tells us that the Wellman land referred to in the deed was along the Straits, generally north of proto-Cherry Street.

There’s no room for a farm along or just west of the Straits, north of proto-Cherry Street, other than whatever farm was immediately to the east of the William Fiske Sr. Farm. A 1658 deed for the William Fiske Sr. Farm identified the abutting property to the east as “Goodman Browning’s Farm.”¹⁸⁵ The conclusion, therefore, is that the mysterious Mr. Wellman owned this property in 1656 and sold it to Thomas Browning by 1658.

Thomas Browning (ca.1587–1671) arrived in Salem by 1636 and was made freeman in 1637. He received a number of grants from Salem and lived in Salem Town.¹⁸⁶ One of those grants, made in 1639, was a joint grant to him and Joseph Batchelder (? –ca.1647) of twenty acres south of proto-Cherry Street and east of Cedar Pond. (It was this twenty-acre property that the 1656 Shipley-to-Kimball deed was referring to, when it mentioned “Tho. Brownings farme.”)¹⁸⁷ Browning’s acquisition of the William Wellman Farm

183 Essex County Deeds 4:182 (John Shipley to Richard Kemball [*si*] [Jr.], 1656), first parcel.

184 Essex County Deeds 13:254 (deposition of Richard Hutton, 1699) and 13:255 (deposition of Samuel Moulton, 1698).

185 Essex County Deeds 13:184 (Edward Kemp to [Rev.] Antipas Newman, 1658). Spelling modernized.

186 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 12, 29, 49; Paige (1849), 95; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):21, 22, 57, 65, 96, 102, 140, 142; Perley, *History of Salem*, 1 (1924):198, 292, 314, 316, 384–385, 455, 462; and Walter Goodwin Davis, *The Ancestry of Lieut. Amos Towne* (Portland, ME: The Southworth Press, 1927), 19–21.

See also Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume IV, 1667–1671* (Lynn, MA: Thomas P. Nichols & Son Co., 1914), 396–397; Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts, Volume VI, 1675–1678* (Lynn, MA: Thomas P. Nichols & Son Co., 1917), 118; Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 2 (1917):228–229; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 3 (1920):1–2.

187 Grant made December 23, 1639. See Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 49; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):96. The *Town Records of Salem* transcription reads:

along the Straits, therefore, was in the context of Browning expanding his footprint along proto-Cherry Street.

In 1659 Browning (who had moved to Topsfield) sold the former Wellman Farm to James Moulton (1602–1680), the deed describing the abutters as the Rev. John Fiske Farm to the east, the Richard Kimball Jr. Farm and Wenham Swamp to the north, and the William Fiske Sr. Farm (at the time owned by Rev. Antipas Newman) to the west; the deed also clarified that the parcel was 35 acres large.¹⁸⁸ The property was not part of Moulton's estate when an inventory of his holdings was made in 1680.¹⁸⁹

By 1696 the former Wellman Farm was owned by John Batchelder Sr. (bp.1638–1698).¹⁹⁰ Batchelder (the surname sounded like the word “batchelor,” the “d” being silent) was a son of Browning's co-grantee Joseph Batchelder. He was a selectman in 1677–1679, 1681, 1683–1685, 1687–1688, 1690–1691, 1694 and 1696. And, alongside his neighbors Thomas Fiske Sr., Thomas Fiske Jr. and William Fiske Jr., he was a member of the jury that heard the Salem Witchcraft Trials.¹⁹¹

Similar to what we saw with William Fiske Jr., John Batchelder Sr. provided each of his sons with his own farm, in Batchelder's case providing the Straits portion of the Browning Farm to his son John Batchelder Jr. (1667–

“Graunted to Josep [*sic*] Batchelor & Thomas Browning twentie acres of land neere adioyning to the former grant & 2 acres a peece of meadow to be layd out by the towne.” The “former grant” (at *Town Records of Salem* p. 95) was a grant to Rev. John Fiske.

Although a *grant* to joint owners is unusual, the idea of a joint venture wasn't unusual to Joseph Batchelder. Joseph, after all, was a co-owner of John Fairfield's house (described at footnote 145). See Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 1 (1911):116–118; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 1 (1916):73–76.

Joseph Batchelder (? –ca.1647), a tailor from Canterbury, Kent, England, arrived with his wife Elizabeth in 1636. He was made a freeman in 1638, and was Wenham's first Representative to the General Court. He was living in Wenham by 1643 and died there about 1647. Like Browning, Batchelder received his own land grant from the town of Salem, in addition to the joint grant. See Paige (1849), 95; Shurtleff, 3 (1854):2; Allen (1860), 28, 29, 102, 141; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):57, 64, 67, 96, 120; Frederick Clifton Pierce, *Batchelder, Batcheller Genealogy* (Chicago: W. B. Conkey Company, 1898), 343; Perley, *History of Salem*, 1 (1924):198, 319, 445–446, 462; Pierce (1931), 91; and Cole (1943), 17.

188 Town of Ipswich, *Ipswich Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, 1639–1695*, MS, 2:218.

189 Essex County Probate 19018 (James Molton [*sic*], 1680), Will and Inventory; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 3 (1920):355–357.

190 Essex County Deeds 37:224 (John Newman to William Fiske [Jr.], 1696). John Batchelder Sr. didn't record his deed when he acquired the Browning Farm.

191 Upham, 2 (1867):474–475; Perley, “Wenham” (1888), 1246; and Pierce (1898), 349–352.

1754). John Jr. built a house here and received it and 35 acres of land when his father died.¹⁹² The John Batchelder Jr. House stood near current-day 130 Cherry Street. Its construction predated John Sr.'s 1698 will; if we hypothesize that John Jr. built his house when he was 21, the house could have dated to 1688. It's no longer standing, and the current house on the site ("Elmwood Farm") appears to date from the period following the Civil War.¹⁹³

192 Essex County Probate 2077 (John Batchelder Sr., 1698), Will and Inventory; and Pierce (1898), 350-352.

193 A 1705 entry in the town records sited the house "within 30 poles" to the west of the Great Swamp Highway, near the highway's intersection with Cherry Street; see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687-1706* (1940), 92.

In other places in this chapter I've proposed house construction dates that correspond to the time of the owner's first marriage. But John Batchelder Jr. married Hannah Tarbox (1681-1744) in 1702—four years after his house is mentioned in his father's will and estate inventory—and therefore I've opted for the construction-at-age-21 hypothesis. For genealogy, see Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1654-1688*, MS (1902), 82 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 393); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 8, 90, 169; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Lynn, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1905), 1:392.

John Batchelder Jr. bequeathed to his son Samuel "the use and improvement of all my dwelling house, barn, and of 15 acres of my Land wheron sd. house and barn standeth." See Essex County Probate 2080 (John Batchelder [Jr.], 1754), Will and Inventory; and Pierce (1898), 357-358. The lot is shown as Subdivision A in Figure B.14. For subsequent history of the house lot, see Essex County Deeds 155:19 (Samuel Batchelder to Sarah Moulton, 1792); 157:150 (Nathaniel Wells to Sarah Moulton, 1794); 241:170 (William Moulton to Paul Porter, 1826); and 338:72 (Paul Porter to Sally S. Dodge, 1843), fifteen acres with a two-story dwelling house and other buildings. See Essex County Probate 37690 (Sally Dodge, 1848), Inventory. See Essex County Deeds 409:88 (Charles Dodge to Paul Kimball, 1849); 652:48 (Huldah K. and Henry Tarr to Edward L. Kimball, 1862), first parcel; 723:173 (Edward L. Kimball to Henry Wilson, 1867); 931:117 (Henry Wilson to Elvin M. Dodge, 1875); 1195:41 (Elvin M. Dodge to Perry Collier, 1887); 1195:41 (Perry Collier to Elizabeth S. Brown, mortgage, 1887); 1204:153 (Samuel A. Fuller to Emma F. Collier, 1887); 1684:336 (Perry and Emma F. Collier to Benjamin W. Currier, 1902); 2266:431 (Clara I. Seaverns *et al.* to Helen Currier Rice *et al.*, 1914); 2383:198 (Emily M. Currier, guardian, to Annie L. Hayes, 1917); 2383:199 (Donald E. Currier to Annie L. Hayes, 1917); 2383:200 (Helen Rice to Annie L. Hayes, 1917); 2383:201 (James F. and Annie L. Hayes to Beverly Savings Bank, mortgage, 1918); 2432:251 (Annie L. Hayes to Raymond L. Fowle, 1919); 2740:396 (Raymond L. Fowle to Mildred H. Fowle, 1927); and 2801:339 (Mildred H. Fowle to Francis L. Higginson [Jr.], 1929). See Essex County Probate 302205 (Francis L. Higginson [Jr.], bequest to Massachusetts Audubon Society Inc. See Essex County Deeds 5768:267 (Massachusetts Audubon Society Inc. to L. Sheldon and Edwina G. Crockett, 1971); 12526:529 (Edwina G. Crockett to L. Sheldon Crockett, 1994); 16021:419 (L. Sheldon Crockett to David M. and E. Louise Grose, 1999); 16021:421 (David M. and E. Louise Grose to Boston Private Bank & Trust Company, mortgage, 1999); 16711:35 (David M. and E. Louise Grose to David M. Grose, 2000); 16711:37 (David M. Grose to

In 1705 the town distributed much of its common land to its townsmen, a distribution project that included the large tract of common land in the Great Swamp. In order to provide access to the interior of the swamp, the town decided to lay out the Great Swamp Highway “to be a convenient highway for carts and to drive cattle from time to time.” Starting at proto-Cherry Street, it ran through Batchelder’s farm to a half-acre “Landing Place” that was designated as a staging area for people who were working their lots (see Figures 2.10-2.12 in Chapter 2, Volume 2). The highway then continued to the northwest and north, running all the way to the Hamilton-Wenham town line, with nine divisions of lots on either side of it.¹⁹⁴

Batchelder was compensated for the land-taking with a grant of three acres of the Great Swamp that were adjacent to his existing farm.¹⁹⁵ The town records are silent on why it was Batchelder’s farm that was chosen as the access point. There seems to have already been some sort of public right-of-way that ran along the boundary between his farm and the William Fiske Sr. Farm—a 1730 deed mentions a strip of land one rod wide¹⁹⁶—perhaps a right-of-way that people had been using as early as the 1630s. Maybe Batchelder decided that the older right-of-way was too close to his house, and the 1705 route of the Great Swamp Highway was deemed a compromise solution?

Boston Private Bank & Trust Company, mortgage, 2000); 32100:531 (John L. Ording, personal representative, to Claudio A. and Jennifer W. Castracane, trustees, 2013); and 32100:533 (Claudio A. and Jennifer W. Castracane, trustees to Salem Five Mortgage Company, mortgage, 2013). See Essex County Deeds Plan 31:14 (“Land in Wenham, Mass. Belonging to Emily M. Currier *et al.*,” 1917); and Plan 119:58 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Massachusetts Audubon Society,” 1971). See also Wenham Historical Association & Museum (1992), 20.

For land that was originally part of Samuel Batchelder’s fifteen acres (north of the Great Swamp Highway) but became subdivided from the house lot, see Essex County Deeds 2334:450 (Emily M. Currier, guardian, to City of Salem and City of Beverly, 1916) and 2334:450 (Donald E. Currier *et al.* to City of Salem and City of Beverly, 1916).

194 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 88-92.

195 *Ibid.*, 92.

196 Essex County Deeds 26:199 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Benjamin Fiske, 1703).

Consider the course of the Great Swamp Highway shown in Figure 2.10: Might there have been a predecessor path that went straight from the town line southward to proto-Cherry Street, without the eastward curve to the Landing Place?

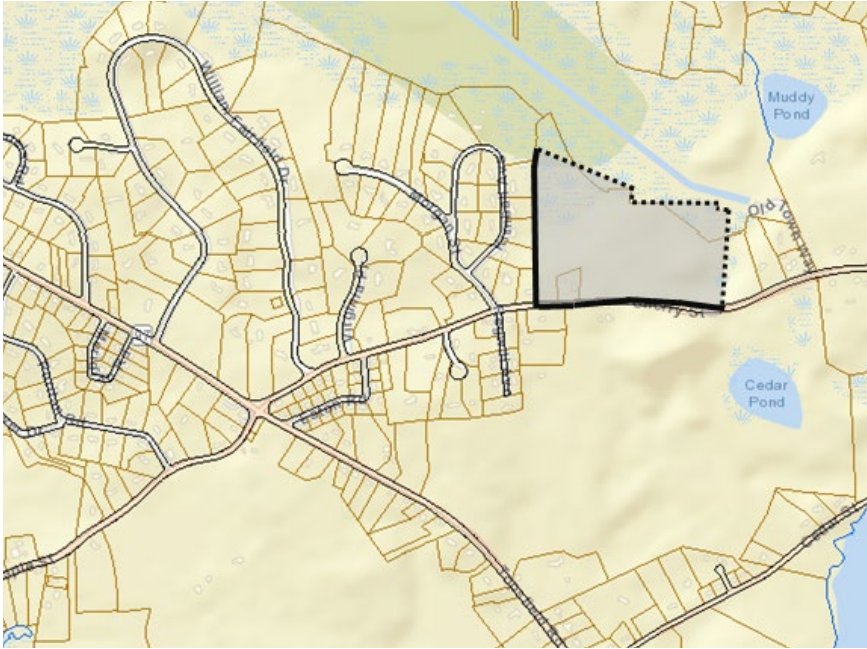


Figure 1.41. The William Wellman Farm, by 1656.¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁷ Current-day Wenham property maps by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details, see Appendix B, page 183.

By the time John Jr. died in 1754 he had increased the farm to 50 acres. At least five of the incremental acres (north of, and contiguous to, the land that he had inherited) were grants from the town of Wenham;¹⁹⁸ however, there's no record of how he came about the other ten acres. When John Jr. died he bequeathed his 50 acres to his three sons—32 acres to his son John 3rd (1713–1765), a three-acre strip to his son Benjamin (1715–1761), and a fifteen-acre house lot to his son Samuel Batchelder (1706– ?).¹⁹⁹

The James Moulton Farm

Figure 1.4, Farm L

James Moulton (1602–1680), the grantee of the last farm on our tour, was admitted as an inhabitant of Salem in 1637, became a freeman in 1638, and was granted 80 acres in West Wenham in 1639. He was appointed constable (in Wenham) in 1646; was part of the two-member committee in charge of securing a new minister in 1656; and was first deacon of the Wenham Church in 1674.²⁰⁰ Moulton's 80-acre grant was south of the William Fiske Sr.

198 In 1704 he received two adjoining one-acre lots that abutted the northern boundary of his existing acreage, and in 1705 he received another lot of three acres that abutted those lots to their north. Each of the 1704 lots was eight rods north-south and 24 rods east-west, and were oriented laterally to each other. The 1705 lot was ten rods north-south along its western boundary, 15 rods north-south along its eastern boundary, and 40 rods broad. See Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 36, 91, 92. The northwest corner of Batchelder's inherited 35 acres, therefore, was apparently 18 rods (297 feet) south of the northwest corner of Subdivision A in Figure B.14, Appendix B.

199 For genealogy, see Pierce (1898), 358, 370, 371; Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 9, 10; and Rice, ed., *Vital Records of Brookfield, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Boston: F. H. Gilson Company, 1909), 462. For boundaries and histories of the subdivisions, see Appendix B, pages 184–186.

200 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):93. Grant made December 9, 1639. For biographical information, see Paige (1849), 95; Allen (1860), 135, 139, 203; Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):53; Eben Hobson Moulton and Henry A. Moulton, *A History of the Moulton Family* (Stuart, IA: W. P. Moulton and Children, 1905), 7–8; Henry W. Moulton, *Moulton Annals* (Chicago: Edward A. Claypool, 1906), 150; Perley, *History of Salem*, 1 (1924):198, 440–441; and Wenham Historical Association & Museum (1992), 122–124.

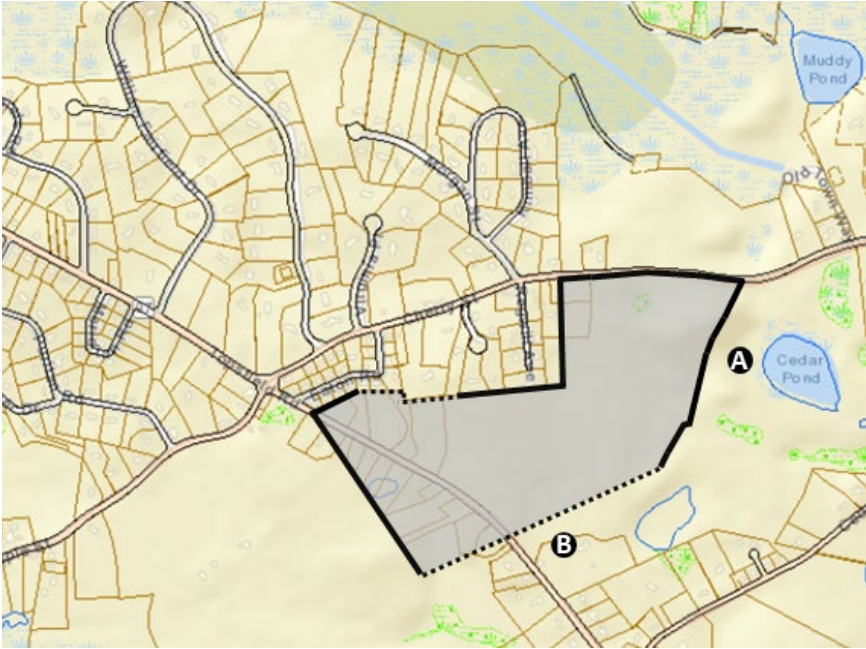


Figure 1.42. The James Moulton Farm, 1639.²⁰¹

Other Properties

- A. Site of the Rev. John Fiske Farm, 1638
- B. Site of the Norton-Rumball Farm; to George Norton, 1636

²⁰¹ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. For details, see Appendix B, pages 187-188.

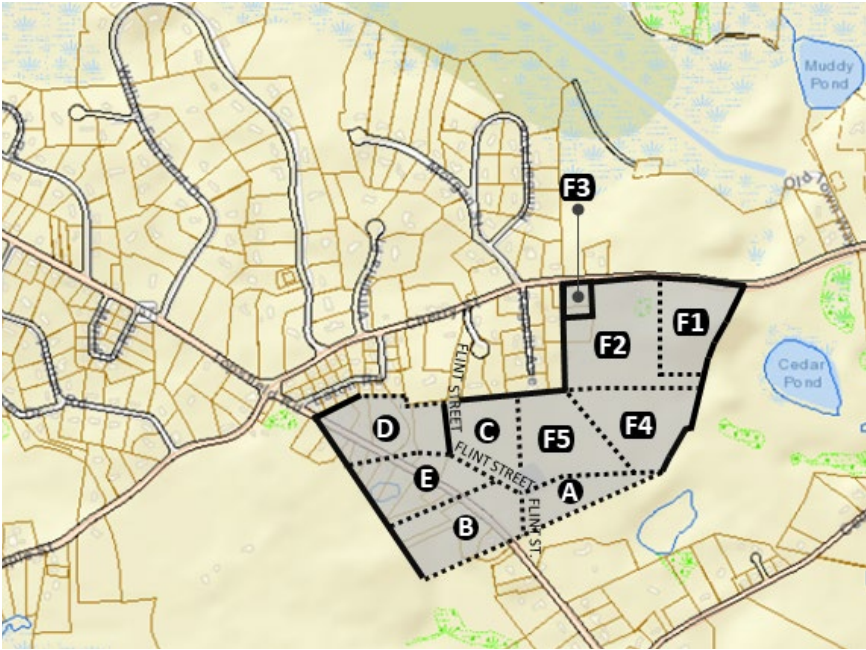


Figure 1.43. Early subdivisions of the James Moulton Farm.²⁰²

- A. James Moulton Sr. to James and Mary (Moulton) Friend, 1680
- B. To James Friend, date unknown
- C. James Sr. or James Moulton Jr. to William Fiske Jr., by 1684
- D. James Moulton Jr. to John Severett, 1684
- E. John and Jonathan Moulton to William Fairfield, 1699
- F. John and Jonathan Moulton's division of their father's property, 1715
 - F1. The First Division, John Moulton's house lot
 - F2. The Second Division, Jonathan Moulton's house lot
 - F3. The Third Division, "John Moulton's Acre" (orchard)
 - F4. The Fourth Division, to John Moulton
 - F5. The Fifth Division, to Jonathan Moulton

²⁰² *Ibid.*

and William Wellman Farms, west of the Rev. John Fiske Farm,²⁰³ north of the Norton-Rumball Farm,²⁰⁴ and east of the Thomas Spooner Farm. It included Moulton Hill, to the west of Cedar Pond.²⁰⁵

Moulton expanded his farm well beyond his original grant. In 1665 he bought the abutting Norton-Rumball Farm (and in 1674 conveyed it to his son-in-law James Friend in exchange for a three-acre lot and a cow).²⁰⁶ And

203 Shown as Farm A in Figure 1.42, its location in and to the east of the Straits places it outside the scope of this tour of the Maple Street-Cherry Street corridor. It was granted by Salem to Rev. John Fiske in 1638; see Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):67, 68, 91, 95-96. Property here was identified as having been part of the Rev. John Fiske Farm in Essex County Deeds 13:254 (deposition of Richard Hutton, 1699) and 13:255 (deposition of Samuel Moulton, 1698). To James Moulton Sr., deed not recorded. Bequeathed by him to his son Samuel Moulton (bp.1642–after 1698); see Essex County Probate 19018 (James Molton [sic], 1680), Will and Inventory. See Essex County Deeds 13:12 (Samuel Moulton to Samuel Kimball Sr., 1697), second parcel; 19:9 (Samuel Kimball Sr. to Samuel Kimball Jr., 1702), second parcel, the Great Hill Pasture; 23:266 (Samuel Kimball [Sr.] to Richard Kimball, 1708), second parcel; 23:266 (Samuel Kimball Jr. to Richard Kimball, 1711); and 23:271 (Samuel Kimball Jr. to Richard Kimball, 1711). This property was inherited by Richard and Ann (Quarles) Kimball's son Ebenezer Kimball (b.1709), and subsequently sold by the town to Nathaniel Bragg, per Essex County Deeds 72:97 (Selectmen of Wenham to Nathaniel Bragg, 1730). See Essex County Deeds 179:5 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.] *et al.* to Edmund Batchelder, 1806), the Hill Pasture; 178:263 (Edmund Batchelder to Tarbox Moulton, 1806); and 190:72 (Tarbox Moulton to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1810).

204 Shown as Farm B in Figure 1.42, its location near the intersection of Flint Street and Topsfield Road places it outside the scope of this tour of the Maple Street-Cherry Street corridor. It was a 40-acre grant made by Salem to George Norton in 1636; see Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):20, 26. Norton sold the farm to Daniel Rumball, although Rumball didn't record his deed. For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 2:94 (Daniel Rumball to James Moulton, 1664[/5]); and 7:152 (James Moulton to James Friend, 1674). See also Moulton and Moulton (1905), 49.

205 For identification of Moulton Hill, see Allen (1860), 13-14; Essex County Deeds 1708:326 (George W. Pierce to Francis L. Higginson Jr., 1903), third parcel; and Phillips (1938), 2, 105. Moulton Hill was referred to as the Great Hill in Essex County Deeds 19:9 (Samuel Kimball Sr. to Samuel Kimball Jr., 1702), and as "the Grate Hill by the Straits" in the 1713 inventory of Richard Kimball's estate; see Essex County Probate 15726 (Richard Kimball, 1713).

206 Essex County Deeds 2:94 (Daniel Rumball to James Moulton, 1664[/5]); and 7:152 (James Moulton to James Friend, 1674). James Friend (*ca.*1633–1718) built a house on this farm by 1679. The location of the house is shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 29:29 ("Boundary Survey of Bomer and Wesel Lots, Wenham, Mass.," 1916); Plan 49:42-B ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., to be Conveyed from F. L. Higginson to Juliet B. H. Goodwin," 1927); and Plan 2606:1 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Mass.," 1924). For more information about Friend and his house(s?), including photographs, see Appendix G.

Moulton acquired other properties as well. Indeed, by the time he died he owned 150½ acres in West Wenham, including not only land along proto-Cherry Street, but also 29½ acres at Lord's Farm²⁰⁷ and twelve acres in the Great Meadow.²⁰⁸

207 William Lord received a grant of twenty acres from Salem in 1636, another grant of 77 acres in 1637, and a third grant of 50 acres also in 1637. We don't know whether any two or all three of these grants were contiguous, although it appears that Lord owned a large portion of Lord's Hill, as well as land that extended from Lord's Hill to Wenham Lake. Indeed, James Moulton said in his will that ten acres of his Lord's Farm property abutted the lake. Although Moulton did not record his deed(s) when he acquired part(s) of Lord's Farm, the location of Moulton's ten-acre portion on the lake suggests that Moulton owned part of the 77 acres granted to Lord in 1637. (Lord sold that 77-acre property to Rev. John Fiske in 1652, the 1652 deed citing the land "near the Great Pond.") See Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 23, 52, 65; and Essex County Deeds 1:13 (William Lord to [Rev.] John Fiske, 1651[/2]).

208 Essex County Probate 19018 (James Molton [*sic*], 1680), Will and Inventory; and Essex Institute, *The Probate Records of Essex County*, 3 (1920):355-357.



Figure 1.44. The James Moulton Jr. House, photographed from the southwest. The oldest section of the house might date from *ca.*1662. The orientation of the house is quirky: the front wall faces to the west, instead of to the south or to the road. The house displays 6-over-6 windows on all three floors, asymmetric placement of windows along the long wall, and a Greek Revival door surround. An ell extends to the east.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁹ June 29, 2014 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The house was painted and its door surround modified in the spring of 2020. For photographs of the house taken in 1913, see B. H. Conant Collection, Plates #03166 and #03167, Wenham Museum, Wenham. Plate #03166 previously appeared on Josephs and Heitz (1992), 0:29:37; and in Wenham Historical Association & Museum (1992), 123.

Moulton built two houses on his farm. The first house was on Subdivision F1 in Figure 1.43. He probably built it shortly after he received his land grant in 1639. He lived out his years there, and he gave it to the younger of his two sons, Samuel (bp.1642—after 1698).²¹⁰ This first house—the James Moulton Sr. House—was demolished around the year 1822.²¹¹ The second

210 Essex County Probate 19018 (James Molton [*sic*], 1680), Will and Inventory. Samuel moved to Rehoboth, Massachusetts by 1698 (see Essex County Deeds 13:255 (deposition of Samuel Moulton, 1698)), and there is a break in the history of the James Moulton Sr. House ownership. In 1715 Samuel's nephews John Moulton (1668–1755) and Jonathan Moulton (1666–1727) divided-up the family homestead, and ownership of the James Moulton Sr. House was assigned to John (apparently because Jonathan was already living in the James Moulton Jr. House next door); see Essex County Deeds 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), first division.

Ownership of the James Moulton Sr. House passed from John Moulton (1668–1755) to his son John Jr. (1698–1760), to John Jr.'s son Jonathan (1737–1801), and to Jonathan's son Capt. John Moulton (1762–1824). See Essex County Probate 19021 (John Moulton, 1755), Inventory; 19022 (John Moulton [Jr.], 1760), Inventory; and 19028 (Jonathan Moulton, 1801), Inventory (1801) and Widow's Dower (1802). See also Essex County Deeds 160:238 (Rebekah Moulton *et al.* to Jonathan Moulton, 1796); 199:188 (Tarbox Moulton to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1813); and 204:68 (Billy Moulton to Daniel Moulton, 1814). For subsequent ownership, see 229:148 ([Capt.] John Moulton *et al.* to Samuel Obear, 1814); and 229:149 (Samuel Obear to Paul Porter, 1822). See Essex County Probate 50713 (Paul Porter, 1861), Inventory, "Moulton Hill and old House lot so called of about 10 acres of Pasture & tillage land." See Essex County Deeds 640:41 (William and Samuel Porter, executors, to Elbridge A. Dodge, 1862); and 1708:328 (Elbridge A. Dodge to Francis L. Higginson Jr., 1903). See Essex County Probate 302205 (Francis L. Higginson [Jr.]), bequest to Massachusetts Audubon Society Inc. See also Essex County Deeds Plan 1708:327 ("Plan of Land of F. L. Higginson Jr., Wenham, Mass.," 1903); and Plan 119:58 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Massachusetts Audubon Society," 1971).

For Moulton genealogy, see Essex County Probate 19018 (James Molton [*sic*], 1680), Will and Inventory; 19019 (James Moulton [Jr.], 1696), Will; and 19021 (John Moulton, 1755), "Acct. Admr. of Estate of John Moulton Late of Wenham Decd.," (1757). See also Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 62, 63, 212; Moulton and Moulton (1905), 7-11, 23, 49-51; Moulton (1906), Chapter 9; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss), 2 (1918):90.

211 Rupert Lillie was under the impression that Paul Porter demolished the house in 1821. See Lillie, "James Moulton House," 1980, Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, Inventory No. WNH.119, Massachusetts Historical Commission; see also Wenham Historical Association & Museum (1992), 122-124, quoting research written by Lillie in 1976. (Whatever Lillie's reference was for the date of the demolition, that reference is not cited in either the Massachusetts Historical Commission filing, or in the Wenham Historical Association & Museum's book.) Adjusting the timing of the demolition to "around the year 1822" acknowledges the fact that Porter didn't actually buy the property (with buildings on it, according to the deed) until 1822.

house—the James Moulton Jr. House—is on Subdivision F2 in Figure 1.43 and is still standing at 123 Cherry Street (Figure 1.44). James Sr. built it for his elder son James Jr. (bp.1637–1696), and its construction might date from the time of James Jr.’s marriage in 1662.²¹²

In addition to the two houses that Moulton built for himself and his family, the farm was ultimately the site of a third First Period house. In 1684 James Moulton Jr. sold eight acres of the farm to John Severett (*ca.*1644–1742), who had recently moved to Wenham from Marblehead, Massachusetts

Unfortunately, Lillie reversed the identification of the James Moulton Sr. House and the James Moulton Jr. House, and felt that the existing house (123 Cherry Street) was the older of the two. His identification seems to have been based more on a study of Moulton family probate records, and based less on the deeds associated with the two houses.

212 Dendrochronology is warranted to confirm the age of the existing structure. For marriage of James Moulton Jr. and Elizabeth Addams, see Town of Wenham, *MS Vital Records, 1654–1688*, MS (1902), 80 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Births Marriages and Deaths, frame 391); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham* (1904), 85, 148; and Essex Institute, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, 3 (1913), 118.

See Essex County Probate 19018 (James Molton [*sic*], 1680), Will, for bequest of the house from James Sr. to James Jr.; and Essex County Probate 19019 (James Moulton [Jr.], 1696), Will, for bequest of the house from James Jr. to his son Jonathan Moulton (1666–1727). In 1715 James Jr.’s sons John Moulton (1668–1755) and Jonathan Moulton (1666–1727)—who had bought from their brother William Moulton (? –1763) that portion of James Jr.’s farm that William had inherited—divvied-up the family homestead between themselves. Ownership of the James Moulton Jr. House was reaffirmed to Jonathan (who was already living there); see Essex County Deeds 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), second division, and see also Essex County Probate 19025 (Jonathan Moulton, 1728), Inventory, homestead of about twenty acres.

When Jonathan died in 1727, the house came into the possession of his daughter Sarah. For subsequent ownership, see Essex County Deeds 65:90 (Sarah Moulton 2nd to Samuel Moulton, 1733), first parcel; 87:82 (Samuel Moulton to Samuel Batcheller [*sic*], 1745), first parcel; 88:280 (Samuel Batchelder to Edward Webber, 1747); 122:283 (William Webber, administrator, to Thomas Brown, 1773); 133:92 (Thomas Brown to William Webber, 1773); 158:37 (William Webber to Adam Reddington, 1793); 167:217 (Adam Reddington to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1801); 197:301 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Samuel Obear, mortgage, 1809); and 220:17 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Nathaniel Kimball, 1819). See Essex County Probate 44414 (Nathaniel Kimball, 1855), Will and Inventory, for bequest of the John Moulton Farm to Nathaniel’s grandson George. See Essex County Deeds 565:41 (George W. and Mary E. Kimball to William Peabody, 1858); 565:58 (William and Anna D. Peabody to William B. Morgan, 1858); 568:23 (William B. and Martha A. Morgan to Elbridge A. Dodge, 1858); and 2193:532 (Elizabeth N. Dodge *et al.* to Francis L. Higginson Jr., 1913). See Essex County Probate 302205 (Francis L. Higginson [Jr.]), bequest to Massachusetts Audubon Society Inc. See also Essex County Deeds Plan 119:58 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Massachusetts Audubon Society,” 1971).

and would become the Wenham town gravedigger.²¹³ Severett built a house on this lot probably soon after buying the property, and certainly by 1689.²¹⁴ His lot, shown as Subdivision D in Figure 1.43, was on the west side of Flint Street and abutted Theophilus Rix's house lot to the north. Severett's house was probably in the neighborhood of current-day 114 Topsfield Road.²¹⁵

THE ORIGIN OF MAPLE STREET

John Fairfield didn't live on his farm in West Wenham; he lived along current-day Bay Road and Main Street, on the Hamilton-Wenham town line. Thomas Trusler didn't live on *his* farm in West Wenham; he lived on current-day Beckford Street in Salem. When the West Wenham farmers wanted to work their land, how did they actually get to their farms?

We can certainly date the Wenham Street-Maple Street-Cherry Street corridor as far back as 1646. In that year the cart path that would one day become Wenham Street in Danvers was referred to as the "way which was formerly made leading from John Porter's farm to Wenham."²¹⁶ But we can

213 Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severy [sic], 1684).

For residence in Marblehead, see A. W. Savary, *A Genealogical and Biographical Record of the Savary Families* (Boston: The Collins Press, 1893), 179-180. Savary dated John Severett's move from Marblehead to 1695, but the 1684 Moulton deed identified Severett as already being of Wenham. Savary's 1695 date was based on a contract made that year whereby Severett was hired by Wenham as the town gravedigger. See Perley, "Wenham" (1888), 1231; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642-1706* (1930), 114-115.

214 Severett's house is mentioned in the 1689 record of the road that would become Flint Street; see Town of Wenham, *MS Town Records, Vol. 2*, MS, unnumbered pages (Ancestry.com, Wenham Town Records, frames 8-9), and footnote 224; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687-1706* (1940), 3-5. His house is also mentioned in Essex County Deeds 13:287 (John and Jonathan Moulton to William Fairfield, 1699). He received a timber grant to add a lean-to to his barn in 1700; see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642-1706* (1930), 177.

215 For boundaries and history of the John Severett Farm, see Appendix B, pages 189, 192-194.

216 Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868):145:

Ordered that Roger Haskall & William Dodge doe call vpon the neighbo^{rs} about Basse riuer head to mend the twoe bridges w^{ch} are decayed being the country way. & the way w^{ch} was formerly made leading from Jo: Porters ffarme to Wenham.

See also Perley, "The Plains" (1919), 99.

infer an even earlier origin, both because of the wording of the 1646 reference (that bit about the way “which was *formerly* made”), and because of land use in the area. As Greater Salem was divvied-up into working farms, a network of communication arteries developed to connect those farms with their owners’ house lots—and the town records contain early references to this network. In 1635, two directives from the town fathers made their way into Salem’s *Book of Grants*:

That Lawrence Leach, Richard Ingersoll & others be sure to leave room for highways for carts to bring home wood, etc.

That between Lawrence Leach and Richard Ingersoll they do promise to make a sufficient cart way.²¹⁷

And in 1636 the town decided

[T]hat whosoever hath or shall cut any trees and leave in the paths about the town to the disturbance of carts, cattle or passengers not being removed within fifteen days shall forfeit five shillings for each such offense; [and] informers with evidence to have half of the fines.²¹⁸

The 1635 directives to Leach and Ingersoll are particularly interesting. Here we have a future owner of a farm along the Wenham Street-Maple Street-Cherry Street corridor (Leach) being reminded by the town to maintain cart paths through his lot. Indeed, these directives support the hypothesis that **Maple Street was likely already a cart path through the West Wenham land grants at the time the grants were made.**

Could the proto-Maple Street cart path have even earlier origins as an Agawam foot path? Possibly. After all, Agawam artifacts have been found at Wenham Lake,²¹⁹ and the routes of two Agawam foot paths going through Wenham have been identified, skirting the eastern and northwestern shores of Wenham Lake. It’s not impossible that Maple Street followed an Agawam path, but if such was the case, any evidence is of course long gone.

The John Porter (1596–1676) referred to here had a farm on the Danvers (Putnamville)-Topsfield town line, per Upham, 1 (1867):xxiii. This farm is discussed in footnote 70. He was the grandfather of the John Porter (1658–1753) who owned the Porter-Crowninshield House on Maple Street.

217 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 1; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 9. Spelling and punctuation modernized. Leach and Ingersoll owned abutting farms in the portion of Ryal Side that was in current-day Danvers; see Pierce (1931), 24–25.

218 Town of Salem, *Book of Grants*, MS, 8; and Essex Institute, *Town Records of Salem*, 1 (1868): 14.

219 Wenham Historical Association & Museum (1992), 8–9. See also Allen (1860), 24; and Janes (2011), 10.

Elsewhere in the Neighborhood: Two Agawam Paths through Wenham

One foot path provided the route for the 1630s road from Salem Town to Ipswich. Starting in current-day Peabody, it ran around the head of Waters River; then through Danvers by Sylvan, Ash, Elm and Conant Streets; through Beverly by Conant and Enon Streets, to Main Street in Wenham; and then northward along Bay Road in Hamilton to Ipswich.

The second foot path started and ended with the first path, but took a more northwesterly route. Beginning in current-day Danvers Square, it went northward along Maple Street and Locust Street before turning to the northeast near the Rea-Putnam-Fowler House on Ellerton Lane. The path continued to the northeast, crossing Burley Street, running north of Cherry Hill (through the current site of the Beverly Airport), then through Beverly by Trask and Cabot Streets to the Wenham town line. From there it went by Topsfield Road, Cedar and Cherry Streets to Main Street, where it re-met the first path.²²⁰

220 Perley, *History of Salem*, 1 (1924):309, 312-213.

For the first of the two paths, see also Hines, "Some Thoughts in Connection with the Old Ipswich Road," *Historical Collections of the Danvers Historical Society*, 7 (1919):29; Perley, "The Plains" (1919), 98; Tapley (1923), 8; and Tom O'Leary, "Ancient Indian Trails and Canoe Routes of Essex County," Salemdeeds.com/NAD/maps/indian-trailscanoe-legend.jpg (Salem, MA: South Registry of Deeds, 2002). O'Leary identified this path as "the Agawam Trail" and mapped various Agawam and Naumkeag trails throughout Essex County, including a system of trails that hugged the length of the shoreline. The Agawam Trail provided a shortcut that bypassed the longer route along Cape Ann's shoreline.

For the second of the two paths, see also Perley, "Rial Side" (1920), 32-35 (includes map showing the portion between Locust and Trask Streets). Perley stated "The ancient highway running [from Locust Street in Danvers to Main Street in Wenham] can now be traveled most of its way." Much of the path, however, was subsequently obliterated by the construction of the Beverly Airport.

For a description of Agawam and Naumkeag territories, see Perley, *The Indian Land Titles of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Salem, MA: Essex Book and Print Club, 1912), frontispiece, 3.

Some of Wenham's cart paths remained rather ill-marked well into the mid-eighteenth century.²²¹ Other paths, though, graduated to the status of "highway," a status that conferred the requirement of annual maintenance by the town. (And, thanks to that maintenance, descriptions of specific highways appear in early town records whereas descriptions of their predecessor cart paths do not.) The earliest mention of a highway in West Wenham is from 1654, when work was being done on "the highway that is begun in the Great Meadow" (current-day Topsfield Road north of its intersection with Maple and Cherry Streets).²²² Cherry Street itself gained highway status six years later, when the existing path was upgraded.²²³

Maple Street did not gain highway status until 1689, when a group of property owners in West Wenham agreed it was time to lay out three highways in that part of town. *The descriptions of all three highways make clear that each was sited along a pre-existing route.*²²⁴ The first of the three was the route to Beverly. This road would become Flint Street and the portion of Bomer Street

221 Allen (1860), 54.

222 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 9.

In 1659, that stretch of the same road known as Wenham Causeway—*i.e.*, the portion of current-day Topsfield Road that runs through the swamp—was mentioned in Topsfield's town records in a description of the town line between Topsfield and Salem (Danvers being part of Salem at the time). See Dow, "The Early Records of the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts," *Historical Collections of the Topsfield Historical Society*, 2 (1896):5; and Dow, ed., *Town Records of Topsfield, Massachusetts, Volume I, 1659–1739* (Topsfield, MA: Topsfield Historical Society, 1917), 5.

223 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, 1642–1706* (1930), 16:

22 of 1 mo: 1659/60 Its ordered yt there shall be a high waye from the Country high waye to Thomas Fisks house: & so from thenc to the waye leading to the Greate Meddow from M^r Newmans: according as it is & hath bin made use of.

The "Country high waye" was current-day Main Street.

224 Town of Wenham, *MS Town Records, Vol. 2*, MS, unnumbered pages (Ancestry.com, Wenham Town Records, frames 8-9), Robert O. Corcoran transcription. Bracketed text other than "page break" and "sic" is from Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 3-5:

We whose names are hereunto subscribed being met together this 14th day of [June] Anno Domi 1689 with relation to setting & staking of Conveinant wayes through our several proprieties lyeing at the westerly End [of] The town of Wenham Beginning at Sam^{ll} Moultons land Adjoyning to his house we having agreed & made a vote that the said [ways] shall be Appointed & Regulated by ye maj^r part of us the subscribers; viz to the greate medows by the Causwaye & to Beverly by the land of Eph^rim Kemball & also so far as ye lyne shall [go to]wards Salem Viliag where it may be [made without legal] Dammag [to the] proprietors & we having mutually agreed to meet together the 21st of this Instant in order to the Compleat- ing of [the same as] written we do Conclude that it shall be affirmed & finished by a maj^r part of the Subscribers that shall then appear [as within]

between Flint Street and the Beverly town line (Figure 1.14). The second of the three highways was the route to the Great Meadow—*i.e.*, the western part of Cherry Street and the northern stretch of Topsfield Road. This route was the very same one that was laid out as a highway in 1654, and its inclusion in the 1689 program is a bit curious. (Is it possible that the town had been neglecting that road's maintenance, and the West Wenham property owners

John Batcheler	Sam ^{ll} : ffiske Sen ^r	James ffriend
his		
Sam ^{ll} O Moulton	w ^m ffairefield	Tho: ffiske Jun ^r
mark		
John Severet	Epherim Kemball	Tho: Kemball
Caleb Kemball	Joseph Batcheler	Tho: Killim
John Leech		

In pursuance of an agreement Bearing Date June 14th 1689 with Relation to setting of Conveynant high wayes at the westerly [end of] the town of Wenham Through the severall proprieties we have agreed this 21st of June Instant as ffolloweth that it shall be [a] Conveynant high waye for Carting etc. viz beginning at Beverly lyne by the land of Ephraim Kemball & so to goe allong to [goodman] Severets house as the waye nowe goeth Except the proprietors shall make the said waye to be better & more Conveinant by removing the same & then from s^d Severets house upon a lyne [between] a Black oake tree & a greate white oake stump marked & Standing nere the lyne betwine the land of Sam^{ll} ffiske Tayl^r & land of the heirs of M^r Antipas Newman [late of said Wenham] deceased & from thenc to goe downe the hill to [the great road] going down into the towne as the way now goeth till [it comes to] the land of Sam^{ll}: Moulton Adjoining to his house.

[And for] the waye to goe to the Causwaye to goe from [the Black] oak tree [and] white oak Stump to a heap

[page break]

[of stones] in the lane by the Tayl^r: ffisks house about Six Rods to the Corner of william ffairefields fence

from thence to goe on a lyne to a stake standing in the [fence] betwine william ffairefeilds land & the land now in the possession of Tayl^r ffiske & from thence turning westerly to go on a lyne to the Corner bound Betwine the land of william ffiske Sen^r & Tho: ffiske Jun^r & So to goe to the Causwaye as the waye now goeth & hath formerly gon

And for the waye to Salem Villiage from the Tayl^r ffiskes house it Shall begin at a heap of stones in the lane afforesaid & so to Run allong as the lane nowe goeth taking awaye [so] much of the Tayl^r ffiskes field as maye make the waye Conveinant & so to goe allong by w^m ffairefields [fence] as now it standeth till it Comith to a greate white [oak] being the Corner bound of s^d w^m ffairefields land [and] from the said white oake to goe as the waye now goeth [untill] it Cometh to goodman Leechs lyne & in Case any person [who] is a proprietor Shall make any allteration of any of the s^d wayes it Shall be removed where it may be more conveinant w^{ch} Shall be Regulated by the Judgment of the maj^r part of the proprietors. As witness our hands hereunto subscribed this 21st of Jun : 1689

William ffairefield
John Severet
John Leech

Charles Gott
James Moulton Sen^r [*sic*]
Wm ffiske
John Newman
Tho: ffiske Jun^r
Tho: Kemball
Tho: Killim

were making the point that the route to the Great Meadow shouldn't be allowed to lose its highway status?) Finally, the third highway was the route to Danvers—the western part of Cherry Street and all of Maple Street.²²⁵ Once the routes of the West Wenham highways had been determined, the men who owned the land over which the highways passed made an agreement with each other not to alter a given route without the approval of the majority of the group.²²⁶ A number of these men—including John Leach Jr., Charles Gott Jr., William Fairfield, and Thomas Kilham himself—are names we recognize from our earlier discussion of West Wenham farms.

225 The designation of highways in West Wenham came on the heels of a similar action taken by the town of Beverly in 1685. In that year “measures were adopted for laying out the road from the second parish meeting-house [in North Beverly] to Topsfield;” see Stone (1843), 317. Further to the north, Wenham Road in Topsfield was laid out as a highway between 1706 and 1709; see Dow, ed., *Town Records of Topsfield* (1917), 145, 167-170, and Dow, *History of Topsfield, Massachusetts* (Topsfield, MA: The Perkins Press, 1940), 117.

226 The thirteen property owners who set out to solve the routes in question (in the order in which their names appear in the town record) were John Batchelder Jr., Samuel Fiske (the tailor), James Friend, Samuel Moulton, William Fairfield, Thomas Fiske Jr., John Severett, Ephraim Kimball, Thomas Kimball, Caleb Kimball, Joseph Batchelder, Thomas Kilham, and John Leach Jr. The ten property owners who made the final agreement (a week later) were Charles Gott Jr., William Fairfield, James Moulton Jr., John Severett, William Fiske Jr., John Leach Jr., John Newman, Thomas Fiske Jr., Thomas Kimball, and Thomas Kilham.

These records were transcribed at Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 3-5, but the copyist had difficulty reading the town clerk's handwriting and erroneously rendered “John Severet” (Severett) as “John Seward” and “Tho: Killim” (Kilham) as “Thomas Billings.”

**Elsewhere in the Neighborhood:
A Visitor's Description of Wenham, 1686**

Wenham "is an inland town, very well watered, lying between Salem and Ipswich, and consisteth most[ly] of men of judgment and experience in country affairs; well stored with cattle. . . . In this town of Wenham lives one [Rev. Joseph Gerrish, owner and resident of the Claflin-Richards House] whose father is now a captain in Boston, in so delicious a paradise, that of all the places in the country, I should have chosen this for the most happy retirement. His house is neat and handsome, fitted with all conveniences proper for the country, and does so abound with everything of his own, that he has no occasion to trouble his neighbors. The lofty spreading pines on each side of his house are a sufficient shelter from the winds. And the warm sun so kindly ripens both his fruits and flowers, as if the Spring, the Summer and the Autumn had agreed together to thrust Winter out of doors. He entertained us with such pleasant fruits, as I must own Old England is a stranger to, and amongst all its great varieties knows nothing so delicious."

John Dunton
Visiting from England in 1686²²⁷

227 William H. Whitmore, ed., *Letters Written from New-England, A. D. 1686, by John Dunton* (Boston: The Prince Society, 1867), 271-272. Transcription edited by Robert O. Corcoran.

Allen (1860), 22 includes a version of the Dutton quote, but it is a version that is so heavily edited that it borders on paraphrasing.

50 YEARS IN THE WOODS, AND THREE PHASES OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

Fifty years elapsed from the time the West Wenham land grants were made, and the future Maple Street was designated a town-maintained highway. A lot of change happened during those fifty years.

... Transportation between Danvers and Wenham became easier and more frequent, as did transportation between Topsfield and Beverly.

... Cart paths gave way to town-maintained roads.

... Timber lots gave way to house lots. In fact, by 1689 there were twelve or thirteen houses in the mile and a half stretch of Maple and Cherry Streets that we've toured (Figure 1.45).

These twelve or thirteen houses—and the others that would be built by the beginning of the eighteenth century—were built in three waves of construction that coincided with different phases of population growth in this part of Essex County. The James Moulton Sr. House belonged to the first wave of construction, houses built by immigrants on land for which there were no previous English owners. Twenty years later, however, the pace of construction had picked up: Samuel Porter, Charles Gott Jr., Rev. Antipas Newman and perhaps James Moulton Jr. had built houses between 1658 and 1672. This next wave of construction was characterized by second-generation colonists who were the second or third owners of the land.²²⁸ **By the time the Kilhams built their house, the third wave of construction was underway. Third-generation colonists—the grandchildren and children of immigrants, the first cohort of colonists that had no first-hand memory of England—were building houses on land that had already changed hands at least two times.** And, as we'll see in the next chapter, houses built during this third wave of construction had a somewhat different look to them than houses built earlier in the seventeenth century.

228 Rev. Newman might seem an exception, since he was himself a first-generation colonist. But the house he built on Cherry Street was an income property for him, not his residence, and thereby provides its own example of a second wave of housing construction.

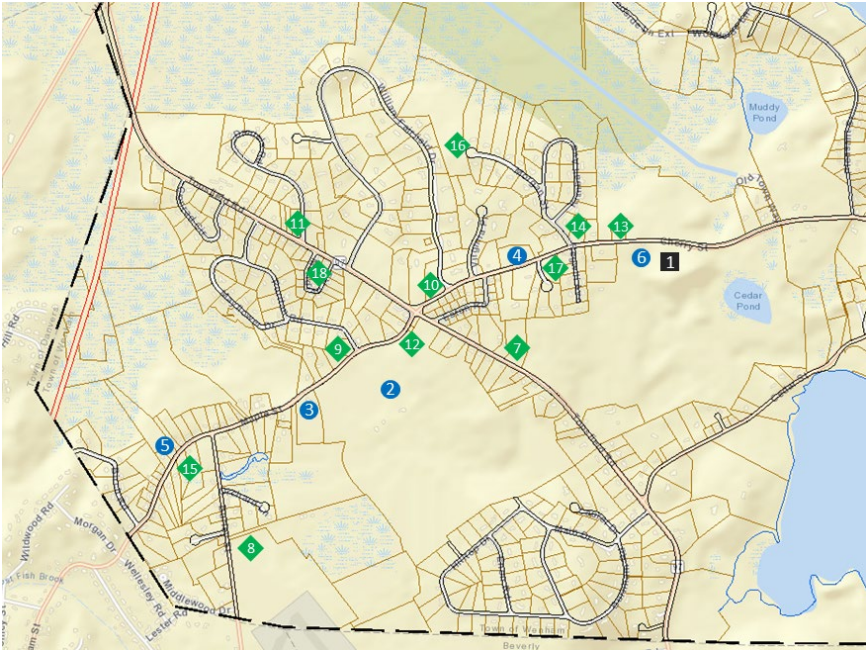


Figure 1.45. The First Period houses of Maple and Cherry Streets, west of the Straits.²²⁹

²²⁹ Current-day Wenham property map by CAI AxisGIS via Wenhamma.gov.

	House	Construction	Demolition
■	FIRST WAVE OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION		
1	James Moulton Sr. House East of 123 Cherry Street	<i>ca.</i> 1640	<i>ca.</i> 1822
●	SECOND WAVE OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION		
2	Samuel Porter House (Porter-Crowninshield House) 9 Maple Street	1658	Standing (?)
3	Charles Gott Jr. House (Kent-Schlehuber House) On the site of 47 Maple Street	<i>ca.</i> 1666?	1969
4	Newman-Fiske-Dodge House 162 Cherry Street	By 1672	Standing (?)
5	John Leach Jr. House Near the site of 88 Maple Street	By 1675	By 1794
6	James Moulton Jr. House 123 Cherry Street	By 1678 (As early as 1662?)	Standing (?)

Continued ...

	House	Construction	Demolition
◆	THIRD WAVE OF HOUSING CONSTRUCTION		
7	John Severett House Higgenson Playground, Topsfield Road	<i>ca.</i> 1685?	After 1856; by 1872
8	Greene-Rich House Conjectural siting, the house perhaps having been rather further west than shown here	By 1687? (As early as 1682?)	Unknown
9	Thomas Kilham House 26 Maple Street	<i>ca.</i> 1686	Standing
10	William Fairfield House On the site of 4 William Fairfield Drive	<i>ca.</i> 1687	After 1872; by 1878
11	Thomas Fiske Jr. House Near the site of 1 or 2 Daniels Road	<i>ca.</i> 1687?	Unknown
12	Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) House On the site of 7 Maple Street	By 1689	1973
13	John Batchelder Jr. House On the site of 130 Cherry Street	1698 (As early as 1688?)	By 1870s
14	Fiske-Ober House On the site of 140 Cherry Street	<i>ca.</i> 1699	1889
15	Joseph Hacker House South of Maple Street, west of Burley Street	1700	1842
16	Theophilus Fiske House Near the site of 20 Morgan Street	Perhaps <i>ca.</i> 1700	Unknown
17	Theophilus Rix House Near the site of 155 Cherry Street	By 1704	After 1884; by 1910
18	Fiske-Gott House Near Meridian Road	By 1710	1797 or 1798



“The Woods” as a place name appeared in documents during the last third of the seventeenth century, but doesn’t seem to appear in documents after that period. Small wonder. By the time the third wave of house-building left its mark, the forest was being thinned out. After 50 years, the Woods was disappearing.



Figure 1.46. Stone wall along Flint Street. What’s left of Flint Street has reverted to the state from which it originated: A path in the woods.²³⁰

²³⁰ May 11, 2014 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. The stretch of the former Flint Street appearing here is adjacent to the soccer field at the Higgenson Bicentennial Playground, Tops-field Road.

APPENDICES

A: Late-Recorded & Unrecorded Deeds

B: Boundaries & Subdivisions of Early Farms

C: Early Deeds

APPENDIX A: LATE-RECORDED & UNRECORDED DEEDS

In some cases it may have been simple procrastination. In others it may have been avoidance of a filing fee. In yet other cases it may have been a desire for privacy. But ... whatever the reason ... quite a few seventeenth- and eighteenth-century deeds waited decades before being recorded, or indeed never got recorded at all. Three Wenham examples illustrate the phenomenon of late recording.

- Essex County Deeds 13:184 (Edward Kemp to Antipas Newman, 1658) was recorded in 1699, 41 years after the transaction
- Essex County Deeds 41:184 ([Rev.] Joseph Gerrish to Thomas Fiske Jr., 1693) was recorded in 1723, 30 years after the transaction
- Essex County Deeds 44:226 (James Moulton to James Friend, 1688) was recorded in 1721, 33 years after the transaction

If someone could wait three or four decades to file a deed, then someone could ignore the task his whole lifetime—and documentation of title-transfer became lost to historians. The William and Prudence Dodge Deed of 1712, though, is a rare example where (1) the deed was never filed but (2) the document has been discovered centuries after the transaction.

THE WILLIAM & PRUDENCE DODGE DEED OF 1712 AND THE TABITHA WOODS DEED OF 1718

This is a two-sided document that contains two deeds and one draft of a deed. The front side of the document is a deed from Lieut. William Dodge (1678–1765) and his wife Prudence (Fairfield) Dodge (1680–1737) of Wenham to widow Tabitha (Fairfield) Woods (1669–1722) of Marblehead, dated November 19, 1712 and conveying ten acres of land in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts. The deed was witnessed by John Palmer Jr. and Stephen Patch, and by Marblehead justice of the peace

John Legg, Prudence Dodge and Tabitha Woods were sisters, the daughters of Walter and Sarah (Skipper) Fairfield.¹ Their brother William Fairfield owned the Thomas Kilham House from 1701 to 1725.

The back side of the document contains a draft of a deed (at the top of the page) and an actual deed (at the bottom of the page). The draft deed—from Tabitha Woods to John (Story?)—is dated September 4, 1716, and pertains to the same parcel of land as described by the deed on the *front* side of the document. Evidently, the transaction was called off at the last minute:

- Tabitha's name is crossed out in all places but one;
- her signature is crossed out;
- the wax seal that had been applied next to her signature was removed;
- the grantee's name is crossed out (or blotted out) in all places;
- there are no signatures of witnesses or a justice of the peace; and
- there are blank spaces where the justice of the peace was to fill in the date when he signed the deed.

Although the grantee's first name, John, is discernible, his surname is very difficult to decipher. "Story" is a best guess.

The deed on the back side of the document is from Tabitha Woods of Marblehead to widow Lydia Dodge of Beverly. It is dated December 27, 1718, and conveys the same parcel of land as described by the 1712 deed and the 1716 draft deed. It is witnessed by Archibald Ferguson and Nathaniel Waldren (or Waldron), and by Marblehead justice of the peace Nathaniel Norden. Property buyer Lydia Dodge was probably Lydia (Nowell) Dodge whose husband Ebenezer died in Beverly on March 19, 1717/8.²

All three documents—the draft deed and the two actual deeds—appear to be written in the same hand. A comparison of the handwriting with that on three contemporary instruments of defeasance originating in Marblehead suggest that the draft deed, two actual deeds and three instruments of defeasance were all written by Archibald Ferguson (*ca.*1649– ?).³

1 Connie Fairfield Ganz, *The Fairfields of Wenham* (Newberg, OR: Allegra Print & Imaging, 2013), 68, 121, 125. See also Essex County Probate 30633 (Tabitha Woods, 1722); Joseph Thompson Dodge, *Genealogy of the Dodge Family of Essex County, Mass.* (Madison, WS: Democrat Printing Company, 1894), 41; and the Lieut. William Dodge section of Appendix G of this text.

2 Dodge, "The Dodge Family of Essex County, Mass.," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 46 (1892):388; Dodge (1894), 35-37; and Topsfield Historical Society, *Vital Records of Beverly, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss), 2 (1907):89, 419.

3 Instrument of Defeasance, Joshua Orne to Rebecca Norman, 1716. Accessed on December 1, 2015 from FamilySearch.org (Massachusetts Land Records, 1620–1986), Essex, Deeds (unregistered) 1700–1820, image 573).

Neither the 1712 deed nor the 1716 deed was recorded with the Essex County Registry of Deeds. Neither bears any inscription by the recorder of deeds, and neither appears in the Registry's grantor or grantee indices of deeds.

This was not an isolated case of people writing multiple deeds on the same piece of paper:

- A careful reading of Essex County Deeds 18:38 (John and Jonathan Moulton to William Fiske [Jr.], 1702)—specifically, its reference to “the withinmentioned percell [*sic*] of upland & swampy land”—indicates that the original deed for this transaction was written on the same piece of paper as the deed that was recorded at Essex County Deeds 18:37 (William Fairfield to John and Jonathan Moulton, 1701)
- Essex County Deeds 229:148 (John Moulton *et al.* to Samuel Obear, 1814) and 229:149 (Samuel Obear to Paul Porter, 1822) appear to provide another example

Writing multiple deeds for the same property on the same piece of paper provided a practical and economical reason not to bother with filing: Title to a property was pretty clear when documentation of multiple transfers was in one place.

Approximate Size: 15" × 12"

Provenance:

Purchased in 2004 by Martha Jane Corcoran from an ephemera dealer at the Brimfield (Massachusetts) Antiques Show, and given by her as a Christmas present to Robert O. Corcoran and Frederick S. Woodland Jr. Martha Jane's discovery of the document was the height of serendipity. It was buried in a box of ephemera in the dealer's booth, hardly in plain sight. When she came across it, she knew the document was a great present for two collectors of Essex County antiques—but she had no idea of its indirect connection to William Fairfield and the Thomas Kilham House.

Instrument of Defeasance, John Legg Esq. to Elias Staddon Sr., 1716. Accessed from FamilySearch.org (Massachusetts Land Records, 1620–1986), Essex, Deeds (unregistered) 1700–1820, image 653).

Instrument of Defeasance, George Chin to Elizabeth Carter, 1718. Accessed from FamilySearch.org (Massachusetts Land Records, 1620–1986), Essex, Deeds (unregistered) 1700–1820, image 779).

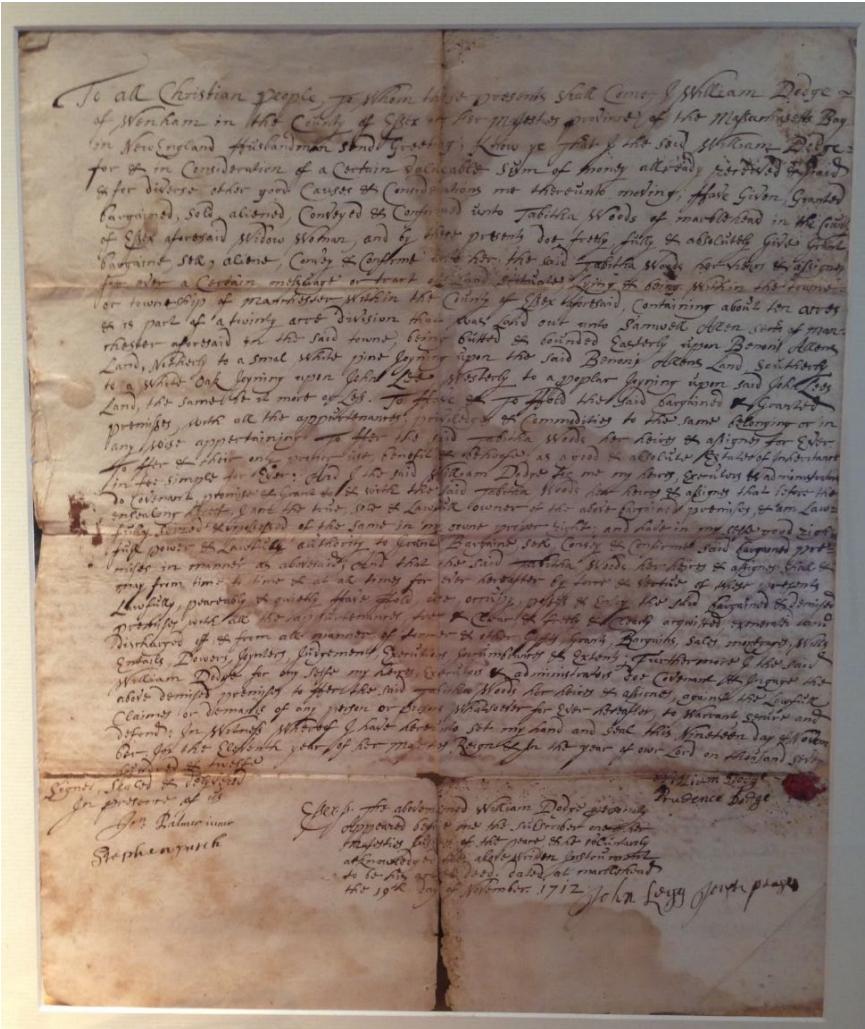


Figure A.1. Front of the document.⁴

4 March 2, 2014 photographs and transcription by Robert O. Corcoran.

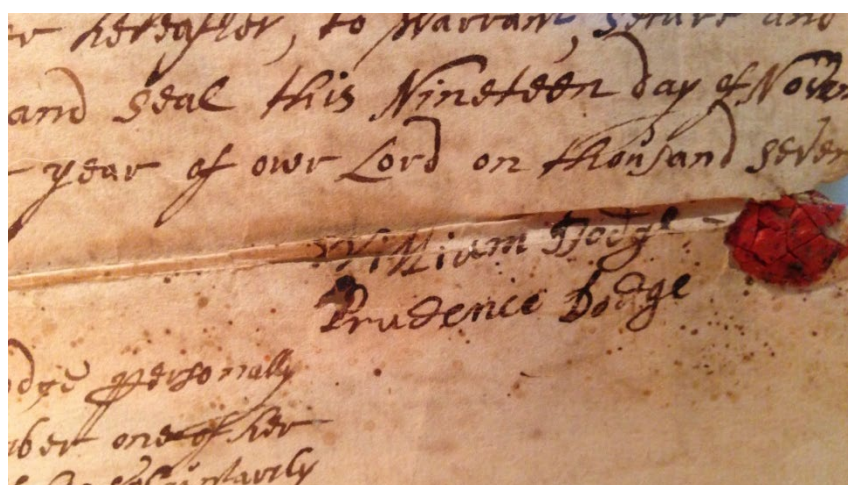


Figure A.2. Front of the document, detail of signatures.

Transcription, Front of the Document:

To all Christian people, To Whom these presents shall Come, I William Dodge of Wenham in the County of Essex in her majesties province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Husbandman send Greeting; Know ye that I the said William Dodge for & in Consideration of a Certain valuable sum of money allready received & paid & for diverse other good Causes & Considerations me thereunto moving; Have Given, Granted bargained, sold, aliened, Conveyed & Confirmed unto Tabitha Woods of marblehead in the County of Essex aforesaid Widow Woman, and by these presents doo freely, fully & absolutely Give Grant bargain, sell, aliene, Convey & Confirme unto her the said Tabitha Woods her heirs & assigns for ever a Certain messuage or tract of Land situate, Lying & being Within the bounds or township of Manchester Within the County of Essex aforesaid, Containing about ten acres & is part of a twinty [*sic*] acre division that was Laid out unto Samuell Allen Senr of Manchester aforesaid in the said town, being butted & bounded Easterly upon Benoni Allens Land, Northerly to a smal [*sic*] white pine Joyning upon the said Benoni Allens Land, southerly to a White Oak Joyning upon John Loos, Westerly to a poplar Joyning upon said John Loos Land, the same be it more or Less. To Have & To Hold the said bargained & granted premises, with all the appurtenances, priviledges & Commodities to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining To Her the said Tabitha Woods her heirs & assigns for Ever To Her & their only proper use, benefit & behoofe; as a good & absolute Estate of Inheritance in fee simple for Ever: And I the said William Dodge for me my heirs, executors & administrators doe Covenant, promise & Grant to & with the said Tabitha Woods her heirs & assigns that before the ensealing hereof, I am the true, sole & Lawfull owner of the abov'd bargained premises, & am Lawfully seized & possessed of the same in my own proper right; and have in myself good rightfull power & Lawful authority to Grant Bargaine, sell, Convey & Confirm said bargained premises in manner as abovesaid; And that the said Tabitha Woods her heirs & assigns shall & may from time to time & at all times for ever hereafter by [...] & [...] of these presents Lawfully, peaceably & quietly Have & Hold, use, occupy, possess & Enjoy the said bargained & demised premises, with all the appurtenances, free & Clear, & freely & Clearly acquitted, exonerated [...] discharged of, & from all manner of former & other Gifts, Grants, Bargains, Sales, mortgages, Wills, Entails, Dowers, [...], Judgements, [...], [...] & [...]; Furthermore I the said William Dodge for my selfe my heirs, Executors & administrators doe Covenant & Ingage the above demised premises to Her the said Tabitha Woods her heirs & assigns, against the Lawfull Claims or demands of any person or persons Whatsoever for Ever hereafter, to Warrant, [...] and defend: In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Nineteen day of November In the Eleventh year of her Majesties Reign & In the year of our Lord on [*sic*] thousand seven hundred & twelfe.

Signed, Sealed & delivered

William Dodge [seal]

In presence of us

Joⁿ: Palmer [junior?]

Stephen Patch

Prudence Dodge

Essex SS. The abovenamed William Dodge personally
Appeared before me the subscriber one of her
majesties Justices of the peace & so voluntarily
acknowledged the abovementioned Instrument to be
his act & deed. dated at Marblehead the 19th day
of November. 1712.

John Legg [...]

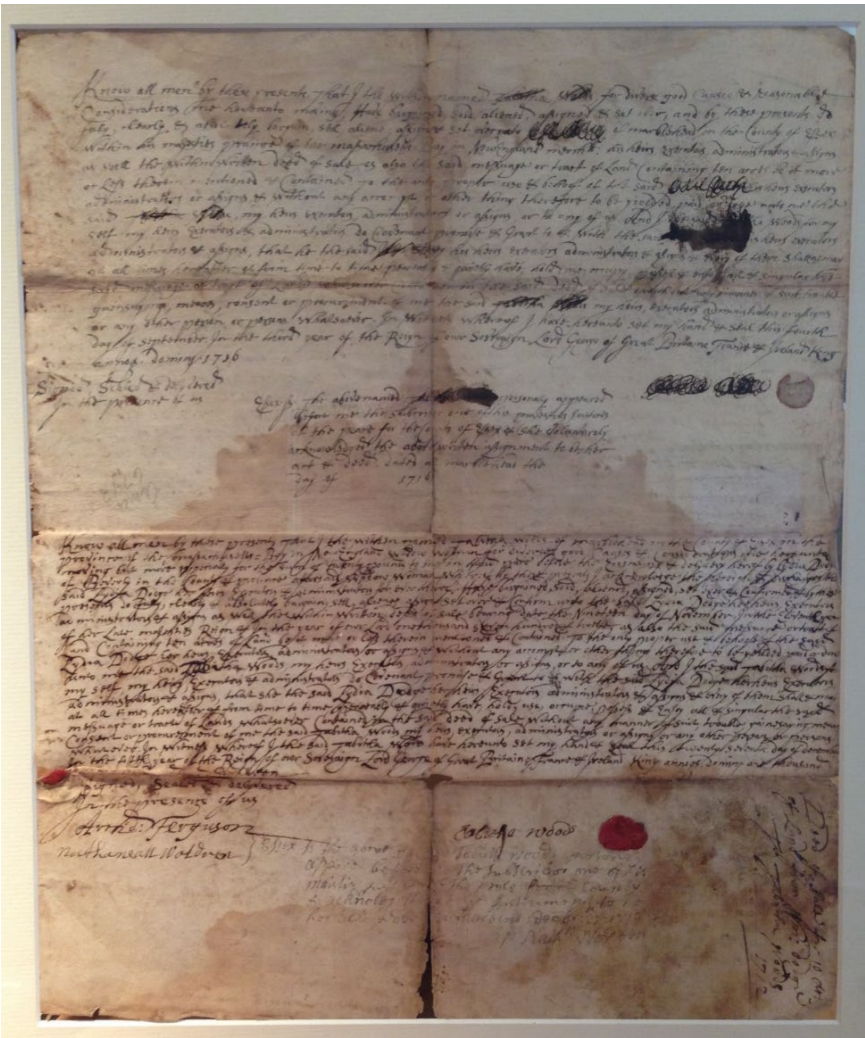


Figure A.3. Back of the document.

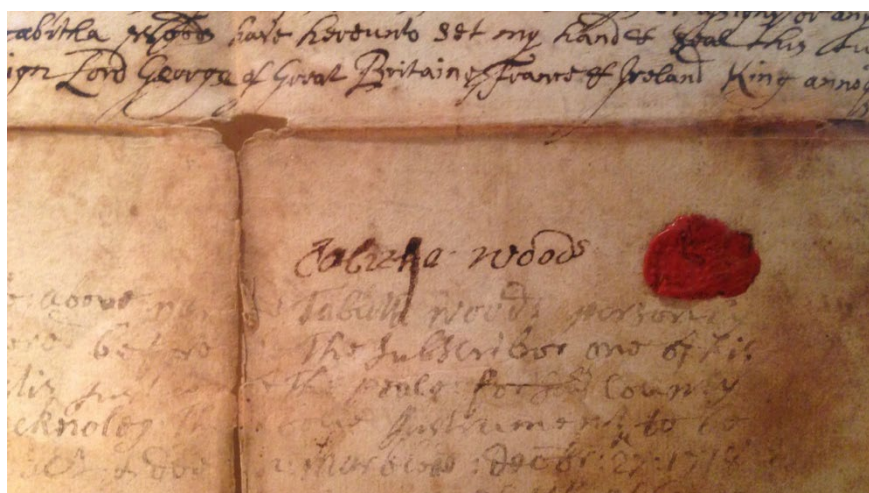


Figure A.4. Back of the document, detail of signature.

Transcription, Back of the Document:

Know all men by these presents that I the within named ~~Tabitha Woods~~, for diverse good Causes & reasonable Considerations me hereunto moving, Have bargained, sold, aliened, assigned & set over, and by these presents do fully, clearly & absolutely bargain, sell, aliene, assign & set over unto ~~John [Story?]~~ of marblehead in the County of Essex within his majesties province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England mercht [merchant], his heirs, Executors administrators & assigns as well the within written deed of sale, as also the said message or tract of Land Containing ten acres be it more or Less therein mentioned & Contained to the only proper use & behoof of the said ~~John [Story?]~~ his heirs executors administrators or assigns, & without any [...] or other thing therefore to be yielded, paid or [...] the said ~~Tabitha Woods~~ my heirs executors, administrators or assigns, or to any of us. And I the said Tabitha Woods for my self my heirs Executors & administrators do Covenant promise & Grant to & with the said ~~John [Story?]~~ his heirs executors administrators & assigns, that he the said ~~John [Story?]~~ his heirs executors administrators & assigns & every of them shall & may at all times hereafter & from time to time peaceably & quietly have, hold, use occupy, possess & enjoy all & singular the said message or tract of Lands whatsoever Contained in the said deed of sale without any manner of suit, trouble, gainsaying [...] or procurement of me the said ~~Tabitha Woods~~ my heirs, executors administrators or assigns or any other person or persons whatsoever. In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this fourth day of september. In the third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George of Great Britain Frans & Ireland King anno domini 1716

Signed, Sealed & delivered

In the presence of us

~~Tabitha Woods~~ [seal removed]

Essex SS. The abovenamed ~~Tabitha Woods~~ personally appeared before me the subscriber one of his majesties justices of the peace for the County of Essex & she voluntarily acknowledged the above written assignment to be her act & deed at marblehead the [blank] day of [blank] 1716

Know all men by these presents that I the within named Tabitha Woods of Marblehead in the County of Essex in the province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Widow Woman for diverse good Causes & Considerations me hereunto moving but more especially for the sum of twenty pounds to me in hand paid before the Ensealing & delivery hereof by Lydia Dodge of Beverly in the County & province aforesaid Widow Woman whereof by these presents I acknowledge [...] said Lydia Dodge her heirs Executors & administrators for ever [...] Have bargained, sold, aliened, assigned, set over & Confirmed & by these presents do fully, clearly & absolutely bargain, sell, aliene, assign, set over & Confirm unto the said Lydia Dodge her heirs, Executors administrators &

assigns as well the within written deed of sale bearing date the Nineteen day of November In the Eleventh year of her [...] majesties Reign & In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & twelfe, as also the said messuage or tract of Land Containing ten acres of Land be it more or less therein mentioned & Contained. To Her only proper use & behoofe of the said Lydia Dodge her heirs, Executors, administrators or assigns & without any [...] or other thing therefore to be [...] or done unto me the said Tabitha Woods, my heirs, Executors, administrators or assigns, or to any of us. And I the said Tabitha Woods for my self, my heirs, Executors & administrators do Covenant, promise & Grant to [...] Lydia Dodge her heirs, Executors administrators & assigns, that she the said Lydia Dodge her heirs, Executors, administrators & assigns & [...] of them shall & may at all times hereafter & from time to time peaceably & quietly have, hold, use, occupie, posses & Enjoy all & singular the said messuage or tract of Lands whatsoever Contained in the said deed of sale, without any manner of suit, trouble, gainsaying, [...] Consent or [...] of me the said Tabitha Woods my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, or any other person or persons whatsoever. In Witness Whereof I the said Tabitha Woods have hereunto set my hand & seal this twenty seventh day of december In the fifth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George of Great Britain & France & Ireland King anno domini one thousand [...] Eighteen

Signed, Sealed & delivered

In the presence of us

A[...]:d: Ferguson

Nathaneall Waldren

Tabitha Woods [seal]
Essex SS. The abovenamed Tabitha Woods personally appeared before me the subscriber one of his Maistis justices of the peace for said county & acknolog. the above instrument to be her act & deed at Marblehead: Decbr: 27: 1718

Nath^l Norden

Deed of Sale for 10 act
of Land from Wm: dodge
To Tabitha Woods

1712

APPENDIX B:
BOUNDARIES & SUBDIVISIONS OF EARLY FARMS

The William Fiske Jr. Farm
The Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm
Leach's Swamp
The Thomas Trusler Farm
The William Osbourne Farm
The Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm
The John Fairfield Farm
The William Fiske Sr. Farm
The William Wellman Farm
The James Moulton Farm

THE WILLIAM FISKE JR. FARM

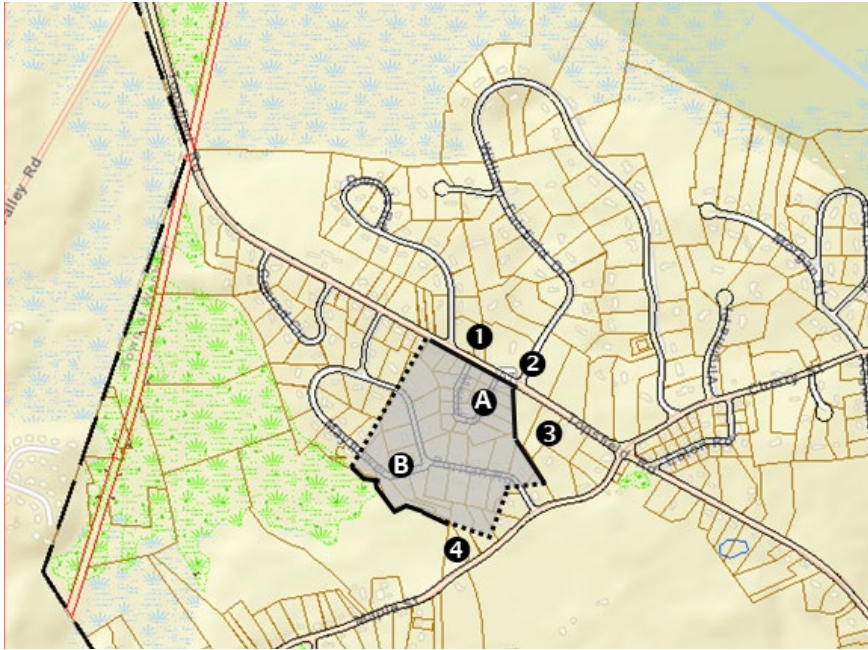


Figure B.1. The William Fiske Jr. Farm, by 1686.

Boundaries

1. The boundary along proto-Topsfield Road is consistent with Essex County Deeds 41:169 (Thomas Fiske [Jr.] to Thomas Tarbox, 1712) and subsequent history of the Tarbox lot. In addition, the frontage on proto-Topsfield Road is described in Essex County Probate 11332 (John Gott [Jr.], 1761), Widow's Thirds (1765).
2. The northeast corner of the lot, where a stone wall intersects Topsfield Road to the southwest of 169 Topsfield Road, appears to be the corner between William Fiske Jr.'s land and Thomas Fiske Jr.'s land mentioned in a 1689 description of proto-Topsfield Road.¹

¹ Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham, Vol. 2, 1679 to 1731*, MS, unnumbered pages (Ancestry.com, Wenham Town Records, frames 8-9), transcribed at footnote 224 in Chapter 1; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1940), 3-5.

3. The eastern boundary corresponds to the stone wall currently on-site, and also corresponds to the length of the 53½-rod boundary between Gott's widow's third and the abutting Benjamin Fairfield property (per Essex County Probate 11332).
4. Conjectural boundary point that is consistent with Essex County Deeds 70:75 (William Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1725), a deed that describes the Thomas Kilham House lot of *just two acres* abutting John Gott Jr.'s land to the north

Subdivisions

- A. William Fiske 3rd to Lieut. John Gott, 1710, location of 12-acre lot anchored on proto-Topsfield Road
- B. The "missing lot" of about 29 acres, presumably sold by William Fiske Jr. to Lieut. John Gott between 1702 and 1710

It is tempting to propose that much of the boundary between Lot A and Lot B corresponded to the west and southwest boundaries of Elizabeth (Kimball) Gott's widow's third (Figure B.2), but there's insufficient evidence to conclude so.

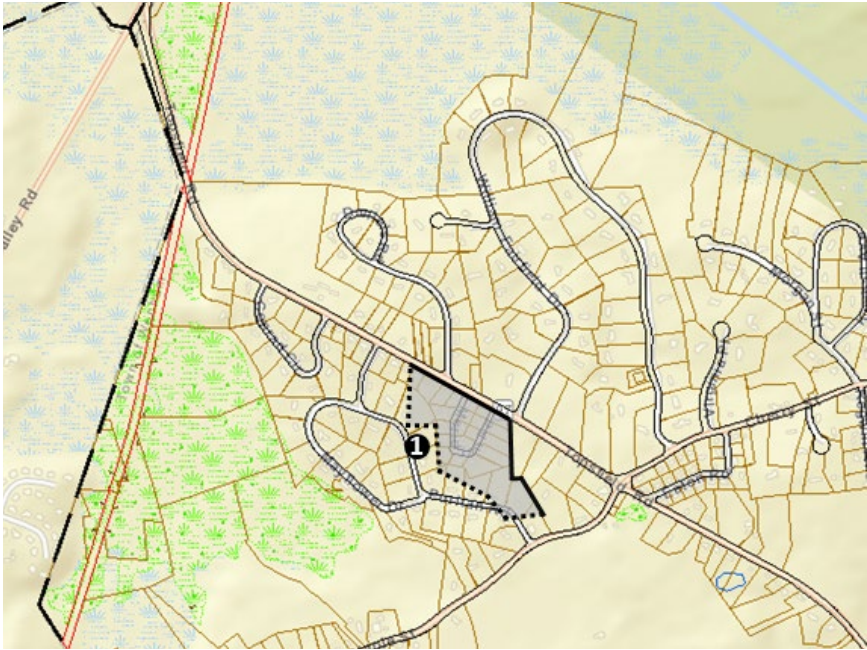


Figure B.2. Elizabeth (Kimball) Gott's widow's third, 1765.

Boundaries

The description of the widow's third includes the lengths of each run of boundary. The lot is grounded on the document's description of 55½-rod frontage on proto-Topsfield Road. See Essex County Probate 11332 (John Gott [Jr.], 1761), Widow's Thirds (1765).

Other

1. Location of the "Square Field" mentioned in the description of the widow's third

THE SAMUEL FISKE (THE TAILOR) FARM

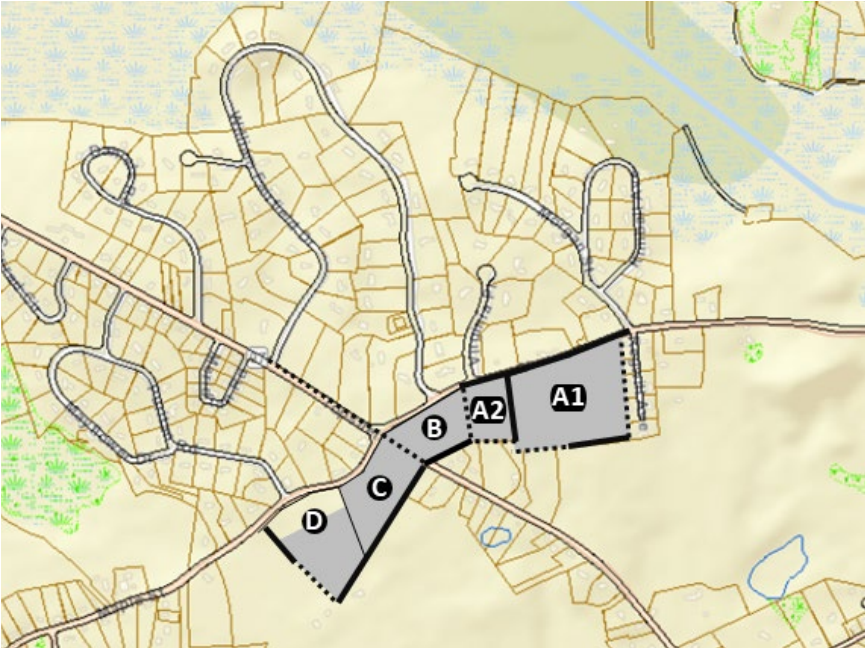


Figure B.3. Constituent lots of the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm

- A1. The Theophilus Rix Farm: Occupied by Samuel Fiske by 1684; bought by Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix in 1692; to Theophilus Rix between 1692 and 1704
- A2. The Butman Lot: Occupied by Samuel Fiske by 1684; bought by Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix in 1692
- B. The Eaton Road Lot: Possibly occupied by Samuel Fiske by 1684 but owned by the Fairfield family in 1692; conveyed to Daniel Fiske by William Fairfield in 1737
- C. The House Lot, to Samuel Fiske in 1688 or 1689
- D. The Southwest Lot, to Samuel Fiske perhaps in 1688 or 1689

The Theophilus Rix Farm

Boundaries

For boundaries, see the Theophilus Rix Farm in the discussion of the William Fiske Sr. Farm later in this appendix.

History

This lot was occupied by Samuel Fiske by 1684, per Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severy [*sic*], 1684). Essex County Deeds 33:42 contains the earliest surviving reference to the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm.

In 1689 “land of ... Taylor [*sic*] Fisk” was identified at the intersection of the roads that would become Cherry Street and Flint Street.² In context, the reference to this land makes it sound like Tailor Fiske was the property owner, and not (in fact) a tenant.

This lot was bought by Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix in 1692, per Essex County Deeds 11:106 (Elizabeth Endicott and John Newman, administrators, to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix, 1692). Samuel gave or sold the lot to Theophilus sometime after 1692 and before 1704. Rix didn’t record his deed; for Rix’s ownership by 1704, see Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 102. For earlier history of the lot, see the discussion of the Theophilus Rix Farm in the William Fiske Sr. Farm section in this appendix; for subsequent history of the lot, see footnotes 176 through 180 of Chapter 1.

The Butman Lot

This lot was occupied by Samuel Fiske by 1684, per Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severy [*sic*], 1684). It was bought by Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix in 1692, per Essex County Deeds 11:106 (Elizabeth Endicott and John Newman, administrators, to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix, 1692). For its boundaries and history, see the Butman Lot in the discussion of the William Fiske Sr. Farm later in this appendix.

The Eaton Road Lot

This lot may have been occupied by Samuel Fiske by 1684, per Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severy [*sic*], 1684). It was certainly occupied by him by 1692, when at the time it was owned by the Fairfield family, per the mention of Fiske in Essex County Deeds 11:106 (Elizabeth Endicott and John Newman, administrators, to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix, 1692). For its boundaries and history, see the Eaton Road Portion in the discussion of the John Fairfield Farm later in this appendix.

See also Essex County Deeds 89:247 (Jonathan Dodge to Jeremiah Dodge, 1747); and 107:26 (Jeremiah Dodge to Samuel Tarbox, 1759). See Essex County Probate 27210 (Samuel Tarbox, 1784), Will and Inventory; the lot was owned by Tarbox’s heirs as late as 1789, Tarbox being identified as an abutter in this location in Essex County Deeds 148:223 (George Crowninshield to Thomas Clark, 1788) and 148:224 (Thomas Clark to John Baker Jr., 1789). The lot was subsequently owned by

² Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 3-4, 5.

Samuel Obear by 1800, Obear being identified as an abutter in this location in 166:230 (John Baker to Benjamin Potter, 1800). For subsequent ownership, see Essex County Deeds 186:205 (Samuel Obear to Nathan Preston, 1809). See Essex County Probate 19956 (Samuel Obear, 1833), Inventory, which makes reference to “a lot of landing containing about twelve acres in Wenham called Jeremies” (the origin of the name Jeremy’s unknown, but perhaps it had to do with Jeremiah Dodge). See Essex County Deeds 280:276 (Samuel Obear of Lynn to Abigail Obear of Wenham, 1835), one undivided half of “Jeremy’s (so called).” See Essex County Probate 48517 (Abigail Obear, 1856), Inventory. See Essex County Deeds 721:286 (Samuel Ober to Amos Alden White, 1867); 754:25 (Amos A. White to Henry A. White, 1868); 1127:17 (Amos Alden White to Henry A. White, 1880); 1604:284 (Jennie W. Sears and Sarah P. White to Harriet G. Batchelder, 1900); 1604:285 (Harriet G. Batchelder to Jennie W. Sears, mortgage, 1900); 2623:345 (Alden W. Batchelder to Luther W. Batchelder, 1924), fourth parcel; 2849:500 (Alden W. Batchelder to Roscoe B. Batchelder, 1930), third parcel; and 3478:274 (Roscoe B. Batchelder to Katherine C. Mulry, 1946). See Essex County Deeds Plan 1946:614 (“Plan of Land of Roscoe Batchelder, Wenham, Mass.,” 1946); and Plan 79:10 (“Plan of Land Owned by Katherine C. Mulry, Subdivider, Wenham, Mass.,” 1949).

The House Lot

Samuel Fiske deeded to his sons Daniel and Benjamin (? –1719) “all my houseings and Orchards & Lands Scituate Lying and being in Wenham” in 1716 (employing a deed in lieu of bequeathing the properties to them in a will), although the deed didn’t describe those properties in any detail. See Essex County Deeds 36:167 (Samuel Fiske to Daniel and Benjamin Fiske, 1716). (Samuel also owned land in Boxford, and at the same time he deeded his Wenham property to sons Daniel and Benjamin, he also deeded his Boxford property to his sons Samuel Jr. and John. See Essex County Deeds 39:172 (Samuel Fiske to Samuel Fiske [Jr.] and John Fiske, 1716).)

But Benjamin died in 1719 and Daniel ended up with Samuel’s house and adjacent land. Daniel is identified as the owner of land in this location in deeds for the abutting Theophilus Rix and John Severett lots between 1726 and 1744. See Essex County Deeds 57:58 (Theophilus Rix to James Rix, 1726); 47:226 (John Severett to John Porter Jr., 1727); 66:94 (James Rix to Samuel Batchelder, 1734), first parcel; 74:127 (Samuel Batchelder to Benjamin Batchelder, 1737), first parcel; and 88:40 (Benjamin Batchelder to Bartholomew Dodge, 1744). See also Essex County Deeds 79:157 (exchange of land between William Fairfield and Daniel Fiske, 1737); and 84:36 (Daniel Fiske to Robert Cue *et al.*, 1736).

Daniel Fiske moved to Upton, Massachusetts in 1747 or 1748.³ He apparently sold the Samuel Fiske House lot to Jonathan Dodge (1721–after 1788)—although Dodge didn’t record the deed—and Dodge subsequently subdivided the property into two smaller lots. The property that remained the house lot was approximately sixteen acres, bordering current-day Maple Street on the north, Porter’s Road on the west (today’s driveway to 9 Maple Street), land of John Porter Jr. (the former Thomas Spooner Farm) to the south, and the Theophilus Rix lot to the east. See Essex County Deeds 89:247 (Jonathan Dodge to Jeremiah Dodge, 1747); and 107:26 (Jeremiah Dodge to Samuel Tarbox, 1759). The property was bequeathed to Tarbox’s daughters Rebekah Moulton (1739–1823) and Anna Conant (1742– ?); see Essex County Probate 27210 (Dea. Samuel Tarbox, 1784), Will and Inventory, “Sixteen acres of Dodges Land So-Caled [*sic*].” (The lot was owned by Tarbox’s heirs as late as 1789, Tarbox being identified as an abutter in this location in Essex County Deeds 148:223 (George Crowninshield to Thomas Clark, 1788) and 148:224 (Thomas Clark to John Baker Jr., 1789).) See Essex County Deeds 159:7 (Jonathan Moulton *et al.* to Richard Hood, 1794). The lot was subsequently owned by Samuel Obear by 1800, Obear being identified as an abutter in this location in 166:230 (John Baker [Jr.] to Benjamin Potter, 1800), 240:137 (Joseph White to Paul Porter, 1826), 256:44 (Paul Porter to Richard Kent, 1829), 256:44 (Richard Kent to Paul Porter, mortgage, 1830), and 305:293 (Richard Kent to Henry S. Kent, 1838). For subsequent ownership, see Essex County Deeds 186:205 (Samuel Obear to Nathan Preston, 1809), twenty acres; 282:27 (Amos Shelden, administrator, to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1834), 4½ acres; 343:91 (Abigail Obear to Thomas Kimball [3rd], 1840), nine poles; 343:193 (Thomas Kimball [3rd] to John E. Tiney, 1844), 4¾ acres; 345:27 (John E. Tiney to Thomas Kimball [3rd], mortgage, 1844); 381:252 (John E. Tiney to Joseph G. Kent, mortgage, 1847); 483:234 (John E. Tiney to John A. Mildram, mortgage, 1853); 574:198 (John A. Mildram to John E. Tiney, 1853), five acres; 574:199 (John E. Tiney to William A. Tiney, 1858); 574:199 (John E. Tiney to William A. Tiney, mortgage, 1858); 768:88 (Samuel Ober to Rebecca K. Clark, 1867), 1½ acres; 820:202 (Eli W. Tiney to John E. Tiney, 1863), 4¾ acres; 820:203 (Rebecca K. Clark to John E. Tiney, 1869), 1½ acres; 820:204 (William A. Tiney to John E. Tiney, 1869); 833:133 (John E. Tiney to John H. Tiney, 1871), seven acres; 1667:390 (John H. Tiney to Adelaide L. Peach, 1902); 2025:12 (Benjamin F. and Adelaide L. Peach to Frances P. Daniels, 1910); 2968:190 (Frances P. Daniels to Mary B. Amory, 1933), first parcel; and 4775:417 (Mary B. Amory to Henry S. and Mary Ann Streeter, 1961), first parcel. See also Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 (“Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham,” 1910); Plan 1947:221 (“Land of Town of Wenham in Wenham, Mass.,” 1946); Plan 1951:523 (“Plat [*sic*] of Proposed Right of Way Crossing the John S. Amory *et ux* Property,” 1951); Plan 96:35 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Owned by Mary B. Amory,”

3 Frederick Clifton Pierce, *Fiske and Fisk Family* (Chicago: W. B. Conkey Company, 1896), 90.

1960); and Plan 1961:576 (“Plan Showing Pole Locations on Property of John Amory, Wenham, Mass.,” 1961).

The Southwest Lot

Anchored on Porter’s Road and the Thomas Spooner Farm, some of the land south of proto-Maple Road belonged to Thomas Kilham and the rest belonged to Daniel Kilham Jr. and John Gilbert. Unfortunately, there’s insufficient evidence in recorded deeds to propose a boundary between Thomas’s land and Daniel and John’s.

In 1711 the selectmen laid out a road 32 rods long that connected current-day Maple Street with John Porter’s house. Known formerly as Porter’s Road, and known today as the driveway for 9 Maple Street, it formed the boundary between Subdivisions C and D in Figure B.3. The town records describe the road’s intersection with the southern edge of Maple Street as being one rod eastward “of a white oak tree *standing in William Fairfield’s land* by the edge of the highway that leadeth into town.”⁴ Thus, William Fairfield’s southern boundary was just south of proto-Maple Street. One wonders if some of the boundary-smoothing described in Essex County Deeds 79:157 (exchange of land between William Fairfield and Daniel Fiske, 1737)—a deed that deals with multiple sites—had to do with this stretch of proto-Maple Street.

The portion that belonged to Daniel Kilham Jr. and John Gilbert was acquired by Samuel Fiske (the tailor). Consistent with the history of Samuel’s House Lot, the Southwest Lot was acquired by Daniel Fiske and then Jonathan Dodge. For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 89:248 (Jonathan Dodge to Josiah Fairfield, 1747), first parcel; and 90:153 (Josiah Fairfield to Daniel Porter, 1747). See Essex County Probate 22442 (Daniel Porter, 1760), Widow’s Dower (1761). See Essex County Deeds 114:223 (George Dodge to [Dr.] William Fairfield, 1763), second parcel; 117:126 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to Matthew and [Dr.] Josiah Fairfield Jr., 1765); 123:267 (Josiah Fairfield to Matthew Fairfield, 1777), a transcription of which is in Appendix C; 145:82 (Stephen Dutch to Samuel Adams, 1786), second parcel; 146:8 (Stephen Dutch *vs.* Matthew Fairfield, 1785), third parcel, a transcription of which is in Appendix C; 149:92 (Stephen Dutch and Samuel Adams to Billy Porter, 1787), second parcel; 153:243 (Billy Porter to [Dr.] Josiah Fairfield [Jr.], 1788), second parcel; 153:244 (Matthew Fairfield to [Dr.] Josiah Fairfield [Jr.], 1788), fourth parcel, a transcription of which is in Appendix C; 155:11 (Billy Porter and Matthew Fairfield to Dr. Josiah Fairfield [Jr.], 1787), fourth parcel; 164:76 (Priscilla Fairfield to [Dr.] William Fairfield, 1797); 164:76 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to John Baker, 1798); 166:230 (John Baker [Jr.] to Benjamin Potter, 1800); 199:86 (Benjamin Potter to Joseph White, 1805); 240:137 (Joseph White to Paul Porter, 1826); 256:44 (Paul Porter to Richard Kent, 1829); 256:44 (Richard Kent to Paul Porter, mortgage, 1830); 305:293

4 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (Topsfield, MA: The Perkins Press, 1938), 64–65 (emphasis added).

(Richard Kent to Henry S. Kent, 1838); 306:214 (Henry S. Kent to Nathaniel Kimball, 1838); 485:258 (Nathaniel Kimball to Robert R. Kent, 1853); 509:50 (Robert R. Kent to Henry S. Kent, 1855); 509:51 (Henry S. Kent to Robert R. Kent, mortgage, 1855); 878:97 (Henry S. Kent to James N. Clark, 1873); 1254:82 (James N. Clark to George A. Woodbury 2nd, 1889); 1312:58 (George A. Woodbury 2nd to William N. Moulton, 1891); 1322:258 (William N. Moulton to Clarence O. Moulton, 1891); 1573:389 (Clarence O. Moulton to Adelaide L. Peach, 1899); 2025:12 (Benjamin F. and Adelaide L. Peach to Frances P. Daniels, 1910); 2968:190 (Frances P. Daniels to Mary B. Amory, 1933), first parcel; and 4775:417 (Mary B. Amory to Henry S. and Mary Ann Streeter, 1961), first parcel. See also Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 ("Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham," 1910); and Plan 96:35 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Owned by Mary B. Amory," 1960).

LEACH'S SWAMP

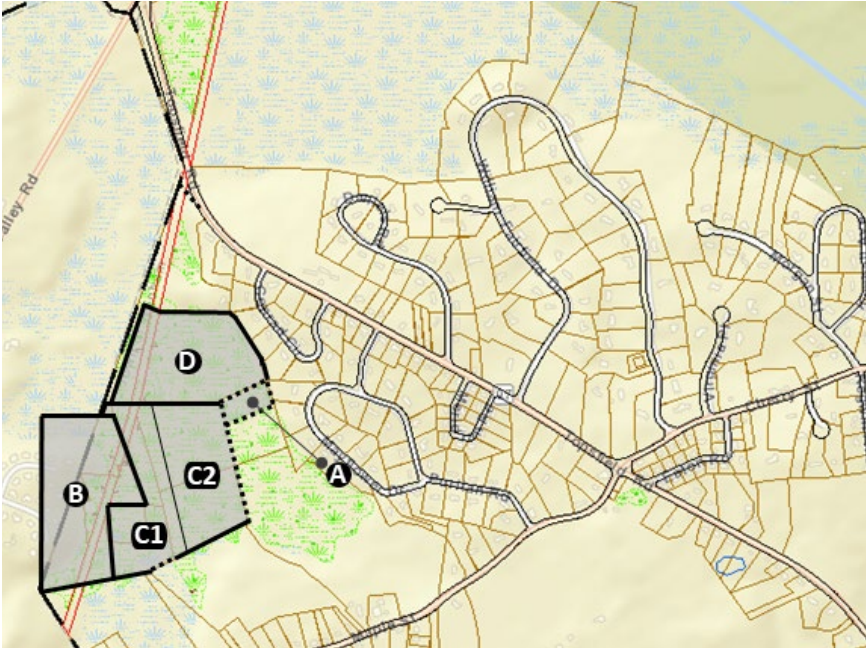


Figure B.4. Early lots in Leach's Swamp.

Boundary

At least some of the southern boundary of Lots B and/or C1 and/or C2 was described in 1703 as beginning at “an old stump with a heap of stones about it at the west end of [Leach’s Meadow] by a clift of rock on a point of upland,”⁵ the abutting properties to the south belonging to John Leach Jr. (bp.1648–1717?) and Lieut. John Gott (1668–1723). A bit of bushwhacking—in search of either a *cleft* in a rock formation or a *cliff*—ought to reveal the location of the “clift of rock,” assuming the rock formation or cliff wasn’t destroyed by the construction of the railroad.

5 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 35–36, 63.

Subdivisions

- A. Lieut. John Gott, 1698 and 1704
- B. The Baker Lot, by 1750
- C1. The Dodge-Herrick-Conant Lot, western portion, by 1772
- C2. The Dodge-Herrick-Conant Lot, eastern portion, by 1772
- D. The Tarbox Lot, by 1781

The Lieut. John Gott Lot

The location of Lot A is inferred from mention of an abutting property in Essex County Deeds 123:133 (Jonathan Kimball [Jr.] to [Capt.] Thomas Kimball [Sr.], 1762); and Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772), third division, first parcel. It was apparently inherited by John Gott Jr. (ca.1694–1761) and sold by his heirs (by 1798) to Thomas Kimball Jr. (1756–1810).⁶

*The Baker Lot**Boundaries*

The Baker Lot is mapped in Essex County Deeds Plan 85:32 (“Plan of Lots in Leach’s Swamp, Wenham, Mass.,” 1932).

History

About half of the Baker Lot was in Danvers, land that had once been part of the Joseph Porter Farm (early references to the Porter Farm being cited in footnote 108 in Chapter 1). Capt. John Baker (ca.1700–1745) appears to have cobbled-together this lot in the 1740s. He didn’t record his deeds—with the exception of a transaction involving a 1½-acre piece on the Danvers side of the town line recorded at Essex County Deeds 80:286 (Eleazer Porter to [Capt.] John Baker, 1741) and 80:287 ([Capt.] John Baker to Eleazer Porter, 1741). Baker’s probate file indicates that he didn’t own the lot at the time of his death; see Essex County Probate 1445 (Capt. John Baker, 1745). Rather, the land shows up in the probate inventory for his son John Baker Jr. (1725–1745), who died only two weeks after Capt. John. Indeed, John Jr.’s inventory includes 18 acres 80 poles of woodland at Blind Hole—the inventory originally locating Blind Hole in Salem Village, before somebody struck out the words “Salem Village” and replaced them with “Topsfield.” See Essex County Probate 1446 (John Baker Jr., 1750), Inventory.

By 1772 the Baker Lot was owned by another of Capt. John Baker’s sons, Lieut. Cornelius Baker (1743–1808), per Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772). Essex County Deeds 138:196 (Josiah Herrick [Jr.] to

6 Inferred from the 70-acre lot owned by Kimball as identified in the Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax of 1798. See “Massachusetts and Maine: Direct Tax, 1798,” online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2003, 6:401.

George Crowninshield, 1781), third parcel; 159:175 (Nathan Wood to Thomas Kimball Jr., 1794); 178:257 (John Conant to Enos Estey, 1806) and 183:64 (John Conant to William Shillaber, 1807) confirm that Cornelius Baker owned the land in this location. Inherited by Cornelius's son John Baker (1770–1821), the lot was subdivided by him and his widow, the subdivisions being subsequently mapped in Essex County Deeds Plan 85:32 (“Plan of Lots in Leach’s Swamp, Wenham, Mass.,” 1932). See Essex County Deeds 221:191 (John Baker to John Rea, 1817); 237:294 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to William Shillaber, 1825), “Lot 2”; 237:306 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to Elias Putnam, 1825), a deed that also references two unrecorded sales of adjacent land to Warren Peabody (“Lot 3”) and Oliver Woodbury (“Lot 4”); 252:301 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to Ebenezer Wilkins, 1825), “Lot 5”; and 3022:234 (Sarah Baker, administratrix, to Samuel Brown, 1825), “Lot 6”. The five-acre subdivision shown in Plan 85:32 and called there the “Baker Lot” was indeed owned by John Baker (1770–1821), per Essex County Deeds 202:270 (John Conant to Samuel Putnam, 1814); an acre of it was assigned to his widow Sarah when John’s estate was settled, per Essex County Probate 1455 (John Baker, 1821), Widow’s Dower (1823), seventh parcel.

The Dodge-Herrick-Conant Lot

Boundaries

The western portion of the Dodge-Herrick-Conant Lot is mapped in Essex County Deeds Plan 85:32 (“Plan of Lots in Leach’s Swamp, Wenham, Mass.,” 1932). The eastern portion is mapped in Plan 2390:48 (“Division of Woodlot in Wenham Between Solomon Kimball & John K. Kent,” 1918).

History

Perhaps owned by Josiah Herrick Sr. (1704–1772) by 1759; “Josiah Herrick” (*sans* “Jr.”) is identified as an abutter owning property in or near this location in Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Widow’s Thirds (1759) and Essex County Probate 11332 (John Gott [Jr.], 1761), Widow’s Thirds (1765). Owned by Robert Dodge Jr. (1724–1778) by 1772, per Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772), third division, first and second parcels. No deed filed for acquisition of the lot by either Josiah Herrick Sr. or Robert Dodge; no reference to the lot in Josiah Herrick Sr.’s or Robert Dodge’s probate files. Subsequently acquired by Josiah Herrick Jr. (1733–1799), although no deed recorded, and sold by him in 1781 when he moved from Wenham to Amherst, New Hampshire.⁷

For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 138:196 (Josiah Herrick [Jr.] to George Crowninshield, 1781), third parcel; 145:193 (George Crowninshield to Billy Porter, 1786), second parcel; and 173:78 (Billy Porter to Joshua Wyman, 1800),

7 See Daniel F. Secomb, *History of the Town of Amherst, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire* (Concord, NH: Evans, Sleeper & Woodbury, 1883), 626.

fourth parcel. Wyman subdivided the property to a western portion and an eastern portion. For the western portion (Lot C1 in Figure B.4), see 177:91 (Joshua Wyman to Paul Porter and John Conant, 1805); and 178:256 (Paul Porter to John Conant, 1806). Conant subdivided this property between 1806 and 1814, the subdivisions being subsequently mapped in Essex County Deeds Plan 85:32 (“Plan of Lots in Leach’s Swamp, Wenham, Mass.,” 1932). See Essex County Deeds 178:256 (John Conant to Ebenezer Peabody, 1806), “Lot J”; 178:257 (John Conant to Enos Estey, 1806), “Lot K”; 183:64 (John Conant to William Shillaber, 1807), “Lot P”; 240:297 (John Conant to Dominick Moore, 1807), “Lot Q”; 240:297 (John Conant to Dominick Moore, 1811), “Lot R”; 204:256 (John Conant to Perley Balch, 1811), “Lot C”; and 202:270 (John Conant to Samuel Putnam, 1814), “Lot B.” In addition, Conant sold the “Daniel Towne” Lot shown in Plan 85:32 to Daniel Towne in 1811, per 204:256 (John Conant to Perley Balch, 1811) and 240:297 (John Conant to Dominick Moore, 1811), but Towne didn’t record his deed.

For the eastern portion (Lot C2 in Figure B.4), see Essex County Deeds 190:28 (Joshua Wyman to John Conant, 1810), third parcel. Conant sold a piece of this land to Oliver Woodbury in 1818 (per Essex County Deeds 1051:29), shown in Plan 85:32.

Conant sold the remainder of Lot C2 to Joseph Kent and Solomon Kimball (the latter being an owner of the Thomas Kilham House). See Essex County Deeds 596:118 (John Conant *et al.* to Joseph G. Kent and Solomon E. Kimball, 1859); and Plan 2390:48 (“Division of Woodlot in Wenham Between Solomon Kimball & John K. Kent,” 1918). See Essex County Deeds 2390:49 (John K. Kent to Solomon Kimball, 1918); 3125:597 (Arthur G. Kent to Joseph F. Kent, 1937); 3125:597 (Joseph F. Kent to Arthur G. Kent, 1937); 3249:589 (Elwell F. Kimball to Mabelle Trask, 1940), second parcel; 3249:590 (Mabelle Trask to Elwell F. and Luella M. Kimball, 1940), second parcel; 4145:110 (Elwell F. Kimball to George R. Wheeler, 1955), second parcel; 4172:383 (George R. Wheeler to Elbridge T. Davis, 1955), second parcel; 4172:385 (Elbridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Equitable Co-operative Bank, mortgage, 1955), second parcel; 4350:409 (Elbridge T. and Dorothy E. Davis to Tacona Company, Inc., 1957), second parcel; 4350:411 (Tacona Company, Inc. to Salem Co-operative Bank, mortgage, 1957), second parcel; 6295:717 (Town of Wenham *vs.* Unknown Owner, 1976); 6582:182 (Town of Wenham *vs.* Unknown Owner and Tacona Company, Inc., 1979); and 13692:265 (Town of Wenham *vs.* Tacona Company, Inc., 1996).

The Tarbox Lot

Boundaries

Boundaries are based on descriptions in Essex County Deeds 727:183 (Amos and Angelina Gould to Daniel Gould, 1866) and 778:290 (William B. Morgan to John Sears, 1869). Approximately a third of the lot, the eastern portion of it, is not accounted for by the descriptions in 727:183 and 778:290, but is assigned here to the

Tarbox Lot per Essex County Deeds Certificate Plan 6305A (“Plan of Land in Wenham,” 1916), sheet 1.

History

Owned by Dea. Samuel Tarbox (1715–1784) by 1781; he is identified as an abutter owning property in this location in Essex County Deeds 138:196 (Josiah Herrick [Jr.] to George Crowninshield, 1781), third parcel. No deed recorded by Samuel Tarbox as a grantee; Samuel might possibly have inherited the property from his father Thomas Tarbox, but there’s no deed for Thomas either and there’s no inventory filed with Thomas’s estate papers.

Apparently bequeathed by Dea. Samuel Tarbox to his daughter Lydia (Tarbox) Hood (1753–1824) per his will, but the parcel doesn’t seem to appear in the inventory of his estate; see Essex County Probate 27210 (Dea. Samuel Tarbox, 1784), Will and Inventory. Owned by Richard Hood (husband of Lydia (Tarbox) Hood) by 1814; he is identified as an abutter owning property in this location in Essex County Deeds 202:270 (John Conant to Samuel Putnam, 1814) and 210:161 (Nathaniel Fisk [sic] to Thomas Perkins, mortgage, 1816), fourth parcel. For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 239:98 (Richard Hood to Paul Porter, 1825), ninth parcel; 298:195 (Josiah M. Hood *et al.* to Paul Porter, 1836), third parcel; and 314:201 (Caleb Jr. and Mary Kimball to Paul Porter, 1839), third parcel. See Essex County Probate 50713 (Paul Porter, 1861), Will, bequest of the 16-acre Farm Pasture “and the swamp land adjoining containing twelve acres more or less” to daughter Angelina (Porter) Gould; and Inventory, “Farm Pasture and blind hole [sic] swamp wood lot of about 28 acres situated in said Wenham and Danvers.”

For the portion east of the train tracks, see Essex County Deeds 716:137 (Amos and Angelina Gould to William B. Morgan, 1866); 778:290 (William B. Morgan to John Sears, 1869); 1236:463 (John A. Sears to Robert K. and George B. Sears, 1888); and 1637:426 (Colver J. Stone to Jennie W. Sears, 1891). See Essex County Probate 241523 (Jennie W. Sears, 1953). See Essex County Deeds 4098:296 (Ruth Sears Cromwell *et al.* to George B. Sears, 1954), fourth parcel; 5720:172 (Clark S. Sears, trustee, to Harvey M. Lewis, 1970), fourth parcel; and 10193:501 (Harvey M. Lewis to Essex County Greenbelt Association, Inc., 1989), seventh parcel.

For the portion west of the train tracks, see Essex County Deeds 727:183 (Amos and Angelina Gould to Daniel Gould, 1866); and 1220:579 (William B. Gould *et al.* Lydia W. Gould, 1888), third parcel. See Essex County Probate 120432 (Lydia W. Gould, 1914); and 127645 (Eugene H. Gould, 1917). See Essex County Deeds 2457:457 (William B. Gould *et al.* to Lyman E. Gould, 1920). See Essex County Probate 244192 (Inie F. Gould, 1954). See Essex County Deeds 4087:493 (M. Gertrude Gould to George B. Sears, 1954). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 85:32 (“Plan of Lots in Leach’s Swamp, Wenham, Mass.,” 1932), which shows the southwest corner of this lot.

THE THOMAS TRUSLER FARM

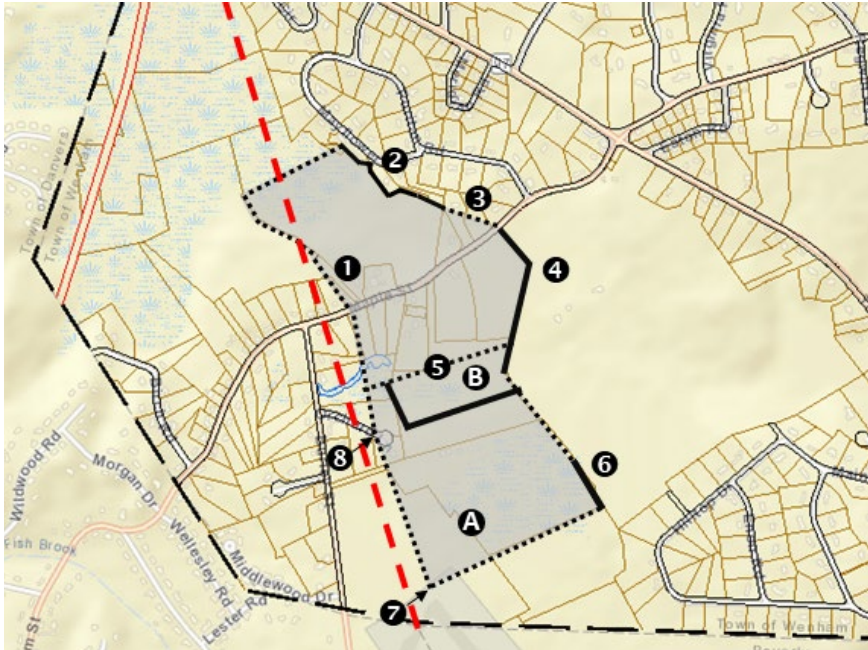


Figure B.5. Boundaries of the Thomas Trusler Farm.

Boundaries

Although not shown in this rendering, it is tempting to align the entire west boundary with the red dashed line, which was the original town line between Danvers and Wenham.

1. Boundary interpreted from Gott family probate records of 1772; see Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772). Part of this proposed boundary corresponds topographically with a glacial kame.
2. Much of the northwest boundary corresponded topographically to a glacial terrace. It is grounded here on stone walls shown in Essex County Deeds Plans 120:46 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1971); 122:33 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Prepared for Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1972); 123:17 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Drawn for Edmund F. & Mary B. Trahan," 1972); and 258:44 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Ma., Prepared for Robert S. Vernick, Charlotte O. Vernick," 1989). See also Plan 97:62 ("Plan of Land Owned by Tacona Company, Inc., Wenham," 1961). See also the description of this boundary in

Essex County Deeds 233:72 (Edmund Kimball to Nathaniel Kimball, 1823).

3. Boundary interpreted from Gott family probate records of 1772
4. Boundary anchored on Company Lane per Essex County Deeds 167:144 (Timothy and Lydia Leach to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1800)
5. Boundary (abutting Samuel Gott) mentioned in Essex County Deeds 90:240 (Benjamin Herrick to Isaac Dodge, 1748)
6. Boundary (abutting Josiah Fairfield) mentioned in Essex County Deeds 90:240, land that was part of the Lord's Hill Commons prior to *ca.*1705
7. Stake and heap of stones in James Meacham's meadow, 1721 perambulation
8. Stake and stones marking on of Josiah Herrick's boundary points, 1721 perambulation

Subdivisions

- A. The Herrick Lot, by 1748; to Isaac Dodge in 1763
- B. The Herrick Lot, by 1748; to Matthew Fairfield in 1772

The 1721 Perambulation

The description of the 1721 perambulation of the boundary between Danvers and Wenham is the most detailed description of the early perambulations. Boundary Point 7 is assigned, conjecturally, to the point described in James Meacham's meadow marked by "a stake and heap of stones" that was 28½ rods and two links, 19 degrees to the northwest of the point where the Beverly, Danvers and Wenham town lines met—a point that was just east of the Beverly-Wenham town line, and not exactly on the town line itself. Boundary Point 8 corresponds to "a heap of stones in Josiah Herricks [*sic*] ground" that was 112 rods, 19 degrees to the northeast.⁹

In Figure B.5 Boundary Points 7 and 8 are connected by a conjectural boundary instead of a boundary that connotes conviction because the perambulation's other measurements can't be reconciled with a current-day map of the Danvers-Wenham town line. Perhaps the inability to reconcile the 1721 description with the current day is due to surveyor error, or recorder error, or changes in magnetic declination over nearly three centuries.

The Herrick Lot

The Herrick Lot overlapped the land "in ye possession of Samuel Fiske" (or was perhaps identical to it) per Essex County Deeds 19:88 (Nicholas Rich and Peter Thomson to Joseph and John Herrick, 1697). Essex County Deeds 19:88 indicates that town common land was to the south of the land in possession of Samuel Fiske.

Subdivision A came to be owned by Benjamin and Josiah Herrick by the 1740s, although the deed memorializing their acquisition was not recorded with either Essex County or the Wenham Town Clerk. The Herricks combined Subdivision A with another parcel(s) to create a 70-acre lot: Essex County Deeds 90:240 (Benjamin Herrick to Isaac Dodge, 1748) describes the 70-acre lot (with house and barn), and identifies Boundary 5 as the boundary that abutted Samuel Gott's land to the north. The deed also identifies Josiah Fairfield as an abutter to the west.¹⁰ (The southern 30 acres of the 70-acre lot were bought by Benjamin Herrick from Joseph Herrick on the same day that Benjamin sold the 70-acre lot to Isaac Dodge; see Essex County Deeds 91:225 (Joseph Herrick to Benjamin Herrick, 1748), first parcel, no mention of buildings. As for the northern 40 acres, 91:225 indicates that Benjamin Herrick already owned some of it, and seems to suggest that Benjamin bought the rest of it from Josiah Herrick at the same time that he bought Joseph's 30 acres.)

9 Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Volume II, 1707–1731* (1938), 173–174.

10 The Fairfield property is described in Essex County Deeds 121:231 (Josiah Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, 1767), 125:143 (Josiah Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, mortgage, 1767), and 126:217 (Benjamin Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1767), transcriptions of which are in Appendix C.

Subdivision to Isaac Dodge in 1763

For subsequent history of the Herrick-to-Dodge lot, see Essex County Deeds 110:264 (Isaac Dodge to Ebenezer Porter, 1763), clarifying total acreage at 68 acres and 124 poles, of which 11 acres and 123 poles were actually in Beverly, and identifying the abutter north of Boundary 5 as “Gotts [*sic*] Heirs;” 121:207 (Ebenezer Porter to Nathaniel Brown, 1763), citing “heirs of Daniel Gott” as the relevant abutter; and 134:254 (Nathaniel Brown to Isaac Giddings, 1771), citing “heirs of Daniel Gott” as the relevant abutter. There is a gap in the title history between 1771 and 1793. See Essex County Deeds 156:152 (Billy Porter to Ebenezer Porter, 1793), 100 acres, citing “heirs of Daniel Gott” as the relevant abutter north of Boundary 5. Bequeathed by Ebenezer Porter to his son Nathaniel Porter; see Essex County Probate 22449 (Ebenezer Porter, 1800), Will and Inventory. See Essex County Deeds 171:131 (Nathaniel Porter to Paul Porter, 1802), 194 acres abutting Hood, Obear and Fairfield (*i.e.*, the Company Pasture) to the east as well as to the north, and abutting John Moulton and Thomas Kimball Jr. to the north; 630:103 (Paul Porter to Lucy Perkins, 1860); 637:67 (William and Samuel Porter, executors, to Amos A. and Henry A. White, 1862), citing Joseph G. Kent as the relevant abutter north of Boundary 5; and 663:280 (Amos A. and Henry A. White to Nathaniel P. Perkins, 1864). Bequeathed by Nathaniel P. Perkins to his son George A. Perkins; see Essex County Probate 115885. See Essex County Deeds 5115:563 (George A. Perkins to Angelina M. Perkins, 1963); 7741:381 (Angelina M. Perkins to Richard A. and Jane E. Durkee, 1985); 10577:554 (Richard A. and Jane E. Durkee to Richard A. and Jane E. Durkee Trustees, 1990); 10701:451 (Angelina M. Perkins to Richard A. and Jane E. Durkee, 1991), confirmatory deed; and 10701:453 (Richard A. and Jane E. Durkee, 1991), confirmatory deed.

Subdivision to Matthew Fairfield in 1772

Subdivision B was identified as being owned by Lieut. Josiah Herrick (1705–1772) in Essex County Deeds 90:240 (Benjamin Herrick to Isaac Dodge, 1748); 110:264 (Isaac Dodge to Ebenezer Porter, 1763); 121:207 (Ebenezer Porter to Nathaniel Brown, 1763); and 134:254 (Nathaniel Brown to Isaac Giddings, 1771). Lieut. Herrick sold the lot to Matthew Fairfield in 1772; see Essex County Deeds 135:81 (Josiah Herrick to Matthew Fairfield, 1772).¹¹ For subsequent history, see Essex

11 Lieut. Josiah Herrick (1705–1772) referred to this lot in his will when he bequeathed to his son Daniel an eight-acre lot “Joyning [*sic*] to land I sold Matthew Fairfield;” see Essex County Probate 13162 (Josiah Herrick, 1772), Will. Daniel Herrick sold the lot that he inherited from his father in 1773; see Essex County Deeds 135:56 (Daniel Herrick to Josiah Herrick, 1773), the deed referring to the abutting property owned by Matthew Fairfield.

A 1779 description of a 69-rod section of fence between this lot and abutting property owned by Capt. George Crowninshield Sr. (1734–1815), the purpose of which was to assign

County Deeds 142:311 (Matthew Fairfield to Billy Porter, 1784), second parcel; 156:152 (Billy Porter to Ebenezer Porter, 1793); and subsequent history in the paragraph above.

maintenance of a 33-rod portion of it to Matthew Fairfield and maintenance of a 36-rod portion to Crowninshield, is recorded in Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1776–1810* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1959), 33–34.

THE WILLIAM OSBOURNE FARM

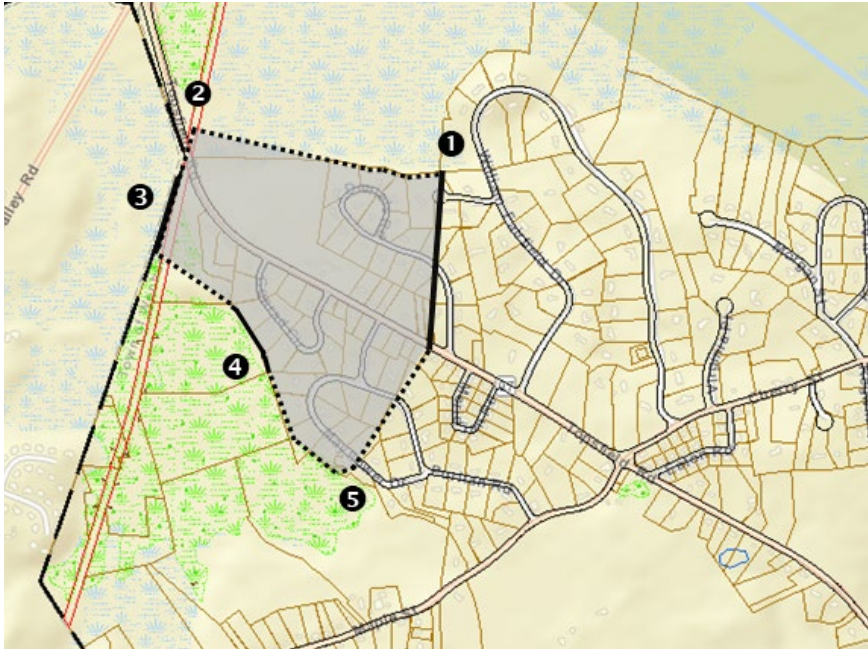


Figure B.7. The upland portion of the William Osbourne Farm, by 1644.

Boundaries

1. An ash tree marked the northeast corner of the upland;¹² although the tree is long gone, its location has remained a boundary corner to the current day.
2. Essex County Deeds 14:269 (John Newman, administrator, to Thomas Fiske Jr., 1682) says that the upland bordered the Great Meadow to both the north and the west, which implies that the northwest corner of the farm was above the Causeway (and not actually on the Causeway itself). Such a position is consistent with a vaguely-worded 1704 town grant of one acre to Fiske, the lot described as “joining to his farm” and being to the east of Wenham Causeway.¹³

¹² Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 7 (1693 reference).

¹³ *Ibid.*, 36.

3. This portion of the western boundary, along the town line, is described in Essex County Deeds 63:54 (Thomas and Priscilla Flint to Joseph Porter [3rd], 1733), first parcel, which specifies that the boundary between the Porter Farm and the former Osbourne Farm was $35\frac{1}{2}$ rods (585 $\frac{3}{4}$ feet) long. The map and description of boundaries included in Essex County Probate 22479 indicate that this $35\frac{1}{2}$ -rod boundary began 12 rods (198 feet) south of the southern end of the Causeway, and that the Causeway itself was part of the town line.
4. The southwestern boundary is inferred from topography, an inference that is supported by the title histories of adjacent lots in Leach's Swamp
5. The location of the southern corner is interpreted from Essex County Deeds 15:205 (Thomas Fiske Jr. to John Gott, 1702)

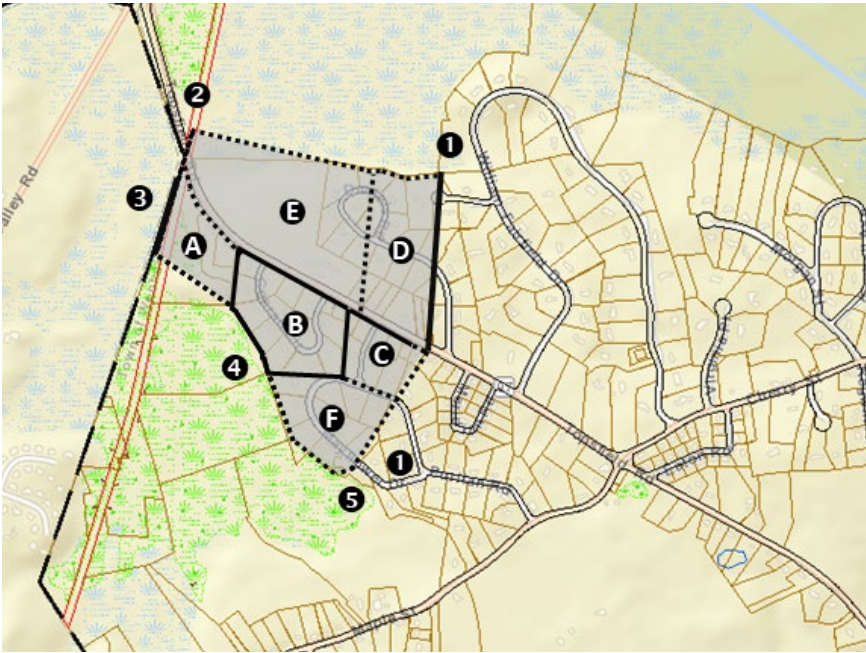


Figure B.8. Early subdivisions of the William Osbourne upland.

- A. The Towne Lot, to Samuel Kimball Jr. before 1730
- B. The Farm Pasture, to Samuel Kimball Jr. before 1730
- C. John Gott Jr.'s Seven-Acre Lot, to Samuel Kimball Jr. before 1730
- D. The Moulton Pasture, to Samuel Kimball Jr. before 1730
- E. The Causeway Pasture, to Samuel Kimball Jr. before 1730
- F. Gott Family's 19-Acre Lot, to John Gott Jr. before 1730, seven acres of which from Thomas Fiske Jr. to John Gott, 1702

Other

- 1. William Fiske Jr. identified as the property owner here in Essex County Deeds 15:205 (Thomas Fiske Jr. to John Gott, 1702)

The Towne Lot

Approximately 8½ acres to the south of Topsfield Road, abutting the Danvers town line, it is identified in this text as the "Towne Lot" because the property in this location is labeled "Towne" in *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (Boston: Walker Lithograph & Publishing Co., 1910), plate 34.

For its history, see Essex County Deeds 56:265 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to John Gott [Jr.], 1730), second parcel, the deed identifying this property as having been part of the Capt. Thomas Fiske Farm. (It's worth noting that Essex County Deeds 63:54 (Thomas and Priscilla Flint to Joseph Porter [3rd], 1733), first parcel, also identified the property that was in this location as part of "Capt. Fiske's farm.") See Essex County Deeds 115:216 (Elizabeth Gott, administratrix, to Michael Dwinel [*sic*] [Jr.], 1765); Essex County Probate 11332 (John Gott [Jr.], 1761), "Account of Sales of real Estate of John Gott late of Wenham decd.," 1777; Essex County Probate 8448 (Michael Dwinel, Jr., 1770), Inventory; and Essex County Deeds 150:42 (William and Lucy Munnis [*sic*] to Bartholomew Dwinel [*sic*], 1771).

Capt. Israel A. Dodge (1749–1823) came to own the property by 1816, when we was identified as an abutter in this location in Essex County Deeds 210:161 (Nathaniel Fisk [*sic*] to Thomas Perkins, mortgage, 1816), fourth parcel. For the lot's nineteenth-century and subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 225:119 (Israel A. Dodge to Jacob Towne, 1818), 12¾ acres in Wenham and Danvers abutting Richard Hood; 301:227 (Martha Towne to Benjamin Towne, 1837); 306:68 (Sarah Averill to Jacob Towne, 1838); 306:69 (Benjamin Towne to Jacob Towne, 1838); 589:288 (Ira Porter *et al.* to Jacob W. Towne, 1855), second parcel, 12-acre "Wenham Pasture;" 940:190 (Stephen Upton, sheriff, to John Sawyer *et al.*, 1875), second parcel; 970:237 (John Sawyer *et al.* to George A. Towne *et al.*, 1876); 971:23 (J. Albert Towne to George A. Towne *et al.*, 1877); 1214:476 (Ellen S. Towne to Dudley P. and Mary L. Towne, 1883); 1496:106 (Charles H. Towne to Mary L. Towne, 1896); 1597:352 (Waldo A. Towne to Mary L. Towne, 1897); 1544:280 (Hattie Isabelle French to Mary L. Towne, 1898); 2883:190 (Waldo A. Towne *et al.* to Clinton B. and Helen R. Tooley, 1931); and 3745:303 (Clinton B. and Helen R. Tooley to Nicholas and Frances R. Fiory, 1950). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 60:12 ("Plan of a Portion of Topsfield Road," 1931), sheet 2; and Plan 141:12 ("Plan of Land in Wenham,

Property of Nicholas Fiory,” 1975). See also Essex County Probate 27898 (Jacob Towne, 1835); 55482 (J. Waldo Towne, 1874); 80049 (Dudley P. Towne); and 158417 (Mary L. Towne).

The Farm Pasture

South of Topsfield Road, east of the Towne Lot, its descendant lots today (the Conrad Circle neighborhood) total 15 acres but it was sized at 17 acres in 1762. It is identified in this text as the “Farm Pasture” because it was identified as such in Essex County Deeds 232:287 (Richard and Lydia Hood to Mary Pousland, mortgage, 1823).

Boundaries

See Essex County Deeds Certificate Plan 6305A (“Plan of Land in Wenham,” 1916), sheet 1; and Plan 6305F (“Subdivision Plan of Land in Wenham,” 1961), subdivision of the Conrad Circle neighborhood.

History

Essex County Deeds 56:265 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to John Gott [Jr.], 1730), first parcel, identified this property as having been part of the Capt. Thomas Fiske Farm, and as property that Samuel Jr. sold to Dea. Jonathan Kimball (1686–1758) in 1730. Jonathan, however, did not record his deed. For subsequent history, see Essex County Probate 15664 (Jonathan Kimball, 1758), “Settlement of real estate of Jonathan Kimball, late of Wenham, deceased,” 1759; and Essex County Deeds 123:133 (Jonathan Kimball [Jr.] to [Capt.] Thomas Kimball [Sr.], 1762), 17 [*sic*] acres. This was apparently the 16-acre [*sic*] lot owned by Thomas Kimball Sr., reported in the Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax of 1798. (See “Massachusetts and Maine: Direct Tax, 1798,” online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2003, 6:402.) The lot was probably inherited in 1805 by Thomas Kimball Jr. (1756–1810).¹⁴

To Dea. William Dodge (1758–1824), but deed not filed; from Dea. William Dodge to Richard Hood (1751–1835), but deed not filed, per reference in Essex County Deeds 239:98 (Richard Hood to Paul Porter, 1825), first parcel. Richard

14 Thomas Kimball Sr. (1730–1805) died intestate, and Thomas Jr. was party to five deeds in 1806 in which the heirs divvied up Thomas Sr.’s real estate portfolio. See Essex County Probate 15768 (Capt. Thomas Kimball, 1805); and Essex County Deeds 177:239 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.] *et al.* to Nathaniel Kimball, 1806); 178:203 (Edmund Kimball to Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1806); 179:5 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.] *et al.* to Edmund Batchelder, 1806); 179:86 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.] *et al.* to Isaac Porter, 1806); and 188:136 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.] *et al.* to Isaac Woodbury, 1806). These deeds accounted for 109 of the elder Kimball’s 140-acre portfolio, and it is noteworthy that none of the 1806 deeds treats the Farm Pasture property. When Thomas Kimball Jr. died five years later, however, the 159-acre footprint of his farm (neither the components nor boundaries of which were described in his estate inventory, unfortunately) is consistent with inclusion of the Farm Pasture; see Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Inventory.

Hood was identified as its owner in an 1818 deed for the abutting property to the west (*i.e.*, the Towne Lot); see Essex County Deeds 225:119 (Israel A. Dodge to Jacob Towne, 1818).

For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 232:287 (Richard and Lydia Hood to Mary Pousland, mortgage, 1823), the Farm Pasture; 239:98 (Richard Hood to Paul Porter, 1825), first parcel; 239:220 (Caleb Jr. and Mary Kimball to Paul Porter, 1825); 1101:135 (Amos and Angeline [*sic*] Gould to Hiram L. Roberts, 1882); 1674:264 (Hiram L. Roberts to Emma Weatherbee, 1902), first parcel; and 1674:266 (Emma Weatherbee to Hiram L. Roberts, mortgage, 1902), first parcel. See also Essex County Probate 50713 (Paul Porter, 1861), Will, bequest of the 16-acre Farm Pasture “and the swamp land adjoining containing twelve acres more or less” to daughter Angelina (Porter) Gould; and Inventory, “Farm Pasture and blind hole [*sic*] swamp wood lot of about 28 acres situated in said Wenham and Danvers.”

John Gott Jr.’s Seven-Acre Lot

South of Topsfield Road, east of the Farm Pasture and near the current-day intersection of Puritan Road and Topsfield Road. Earliest recorded deed is Essex County Deeds 56:265 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to John Gott [Jr.], 1730), first parcel, seven acres and 70 poles of upland, the deed stating that the property had belonged to Thomas Fiske Jr. The northeastern corner of this lot appears to have corresponded with the western terminus of the 55½-rod frontage on proto-Topsfield Road of John Gott Jr.’s widow’s third, per Essex County Probate 11332 (John Gott [Jr.], 1761), Widow’s Thirds (1765).

The lot was part of the John Gott Jr. Farm that was purchased by Thomas Kimball Jr. between 1786 and 1792, at which time it became part of the farm that was associated with the Thomas Kilham House. Part of this lot corresponded with the “Long Field” mentioned in Essex County Probate 15769 (Thomas Kimball [Jr.], 1811), Widow’s Dower (1813).

The Moulton Pasture

North of Topsfield Road, it is identified in this text as the “Moulton Pasture” because it was identified as such in Essex County Deeds 232:213 (Richard and Lydia Hood to Betty [*sic*] Hood, 1818). Its northern boundary is conjecturally assigned to the current-day swamp line, reflecting an assumption that today’s swamp line probably corresponds to edge of the Great Meadow.

We know from Essex County Deeds 41:169 that Capt. Thomas Fiske Jr. owned land in this location in 1712. Earliest recorded deed is Essex County Deeds 59:185 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to Thomas Tarbox, 1730), 14 acres and 60 poles of upland, the deed stating that the property had belonged to Thomas Fiske Jr.

For descent in the Tarbox family from Thomas Tarbox to his granddaughter Mary (Tarbox) Moulton, see Essex County Probate 27212 (Thomas Tarbox, 1774), Will; and 27210 (Dea. Samuel Tarbox, 1784), Will and Inventory. For subsequent history of the lot, see Essex County Deeds 188:83 (Mary Moulton to Daniel Moulton,

1809); 204:92 (Daniel Moulton to Samuel Hood, 1814); 229:185 (Samuel Hood to Robert Rantoul, mortgage, 1822); 407:251 (Robert Rantoul to Isaac Porter Jr., 1849); 529:106 (Isaac Porter to John Smith and Nicholas Brown, 1856); 603:1 (John Smith and Nicholas Brown to George Tufts, 1860); 603:2 (George Tufts to Paul Porter, mortgage, 1860); 894:28 (George Tufts to Elbridge K. Standley, 1873); 894:29 (Elbridge K. Standley to George Tufts, mortgage, 1873); 1299:227 (Elbridge K. Standley to Bessie E. Herrick, 1891); 1375:492 (Bessie E. Herrick to Joseph T. Haskell, 1893); 1375:493 (Joseph T. Haskell to Mary A. Plaisted, mortgage, 1890); 1375:496 (Joseph T. Haskell to Bessie E. Herrick, mortgage, 1893); 2578:358 (Joseph T. Haskell to Alice M. Sweetman, 1923), second parcel; 2578:359 (Alice M. Sweetman to Joseph T. and Lydia D. Haskell, 1923), second parcel; 3085:115 (Edmund G. Haskell *et al.* to Williamina R. Duncan, 1936), second parcel; 3085:117 (Williamina R. Duncan to Joseph Wayne and Dorothy F. Haskell, 1936); 3158:543 (Joseph Wayne and Dorothy F. Haskell to Helen Iori and Margherita Angelini, 1938); 3158:544 (Helen Iori and Margherita Angelini to Joseph Mascioli, mortgage, 1938); and 4207:208 (Helen Iori to Margherita *[sic]* Angelini, 1955).

The Causeway Pasture

Probably on the order of about 33 acres, it is identified in this text as the “Causeway Pasture” because it was identified as such in Essex County Deeds 239:98 (Richard Hood to Paul Porter, 1825), eighth parcel.

Samuel Kimball Jr. (1677–1746) was named as an abutter here in 1730; see Essex County Deeds 56:265 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to John Gott [Jr.], 1730) and 59:185 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to Thomas Tarbox, 1730).

- This lot apparently included ten acres that Samuel bought of Rebecca (Perkins) Fiske and Thomas Howe Jr. (that deed not having been recorded), per Essex County Deeds 84:49 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to Josiah Kimball, 1735), third parcel, and 89:220 (Josiah Kimball to Ebenezer Batchelder Jr., 1741), third parcel. See also Essex County Deeds 98:250A (Benjamin Kimball to Samuel Tarbox Jr., 1744) for a possible subdivision of this lot; Benjamin Kimball (1706–1776) was a son of Samuel Kimball Jr.
- This lot also included eight acres that Samuel sold to his son Josiah Kimball (1702–1776?), per 84:49 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to Josiah Kimball, 1735), second parcel; 89:220 (Josiah Kimball to Ebenezer Batchelder Jr., 1741), second parcel; and 142:101 (Ebenezer Batchelder *[sic]* to Samuel Tarbox, 1763).¹⁵

The property descended in the Tarbox family, per Essex County Probate 27210 (Dea. Samuel Tarbox, 1784). For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 159:7

15 For genealogy, see Leonard Allison Morrison and Stephen Paschall Sharples, *History of the Kimball Family in America* (Boston: Damrell & Upham, 1897), 66–67, 113.

(Jonathan Moulton *et al.* to Richard Hood, 1794); 232:213 (Richard and Lydia Hood to Betty [*sic*] Hood, 1818), first parcel; 239:98 (Richard Hood to Paul Porter, 1825), second and eighth parcels; 298:195 (Betsy Hood to Paul Porter, 1836), first parcel; 298:195 (Josiah M. Hood *et al.* to Paul Porter, 1836); 529:106 (Paul Porter to John Smith and Nicholas Brown, 1856), second parcel; 603:1 (John Smith and Nicholas Brown to George Tufts, 1860); 603:2 (George Tufts to Paul Porter, mortgage, 1860); 894:28 (George Tufts to Elbridge K. Standley, 1873); 894:29 (Elbridge K. Standley to George Tufts, mortgage, 1873); 1299:227 (Elbridge K. Standley to Bessie E. Herrick, 1891); 1375:492 (Bessie E. Herrick to Joseph T. Haskell, 1893); 1375:493 (Joseph T. Haskell to Mary A. Plaisted, mortgage, 1890); 1375:496 (Joseph T. Haskell to Bessie E. Herrick, mortgage, 1893); 2578:358 (Joseph T. Haskell to Alice M. Sweetman, 1923), second parcel; 2578:359 (Alice M. Sweetman to Joseph T. and Lydia D. Haskell, 1923), second parcel; 3085:115 (Edmund G. Haskell *et al.* to Williamina R. Duncan, 1936, second parcel; 3085:117 (Williamina R. Duncan to Joseph Wayne and Dorothy F. Haskell, 1936); 3158:543 (Joseph Wayne and Dorothy F. Haskell to Helen Iori and Margerhita Angelini, 1938); 3158:544 (Helen Iori and Margerhita Angelini to Joseph Mascioli, mortgage, 1938); and 4207:208 (Helen Iori to Margherita [*sic*] Angelini, 1955).

Gott Family's 19-Acre Lot

Given (1) the total size of the Osbourne Farm upland at 100 acres, (2) reasonable estimates of the sizes of the Towne Lot and the Causeway Pasture, and (3) documented sizes of the Farm Pasture, John Gott Jr.'s Seven-Acre Lot and the Moulton Pasture, we can safely infer that there was a "missing" lot of approximately 19-2/3 acres.

John Gott Jr. owned land in this location by 1730; he was identified as an abutter here in Essex County Deeds 56:265 (Samuel Kimball [Jr.] to John Gott [Jr.], 1730), first parcel. Lieut. John Gott had acquired seven acres of this 19-acre lot in 1702; see Essex County Deeds 15:205 (Thomas Fiske Jr. to John Gott, 1702). It is very possible that Lieut. John had acquired even more of the 19-acre lot before his death. Unfortunately, though, the deed that his sons used to divvy up Lieut. John's land has been badly damaged and much of its content lost; see Essex County Deeds 49:2 (division of property between John [Jr.] and Samuel Gott, 1724), first moiety.

THE THOMAS FISKE JR. FARM

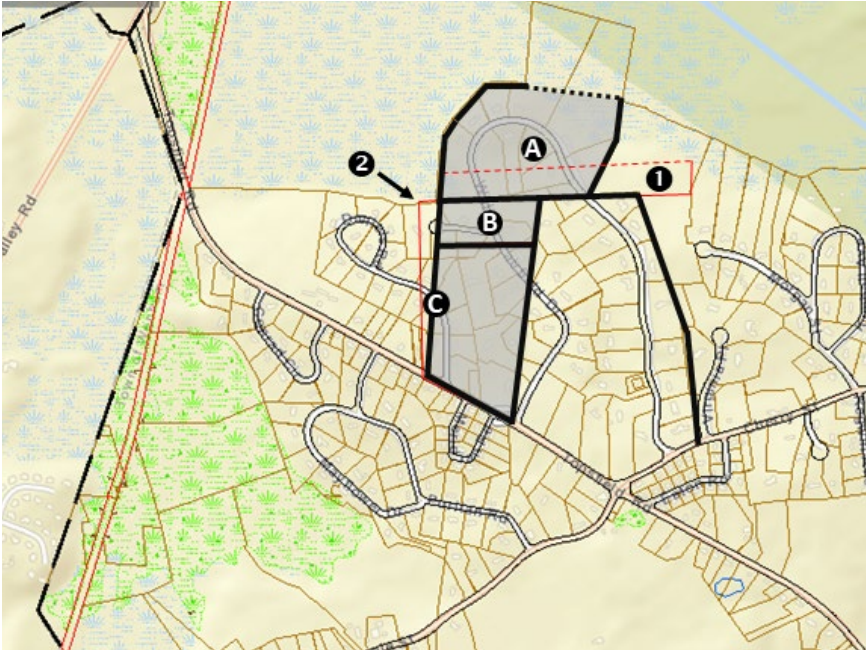


Figure B.9. Early subdivisions of the Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm.

Subdivisions

- A. To William Fiske Jr. by 1696
- B. To Samuel Fiske (the weaver), 1709, per Essex County Deeds 25:108
- C. To Thomas Tarbox, 1712, per Essex County Deeds 41:169

Other

- 1. Thirteen-acre parcel owned by Thomas Fiske Jr. in 1693
- 2. Wedged-shape piece of land that was originally part of the William Osbourne Farm, included in Thomas Fiske Jr.'s sale of Lot C to Thomas Tarbox, 1712

William Fiske Jr. Farm

We know that William Jr. owned this property by January 1696, when the deed for an abutting property refers to his ownership of it; see Essex County Deeds 37:224 (John Newman to William Fiske [Jr.], 1696). Essex County Deeds 25:108 (Thomas Fiske [Jr.] to Samuel Fiske, 1709) refers to the southernmost part of this lot as Samuel

Fiske's (the weaver) meadow, and not as William Fiske Jr.'s meadow—but that reference doesn't rule out a scenario where William owned the property and let his son Samuel use it.

William Fiske Jr. sold it to Samuel Fiske (the weaver) in 1712, per Essex County Deeds 26:63.

Thomas Fiske Jr.'s Thirteen-Acre Lot

The rectangular area denoted as Lot 1 was a 127-rod by 22-rod lot owned by Thomas Fiske Jr., a description of which he recorded in 1693.¹⁶ Thomas recorded it with the Wenham town clerk as a declaration of his boundaries, and not as documentation of a transfer of title. As such, it's a somewhat peculiar record.

William Fiske Jr. owned the lot by January 1696 when he bought the abutting 60-acre property to the south; see Essex County Deeds 37:224 (John Newman to William Fiske [Jr.], 1696).

¹⁶ Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 7.

THE JOHN FAIRFIELD FARM



Figure B.10. The upland portion of the John Fairfield Farm, 1639.

Boundaries

1. Location of the eastern boundary (north of Cherry Street) is based on Essex County Deeds Plan 1682:600 ("Plan of Land in Wenham Sold to Wolcott H. Johnson by Lester E. Libby," 1902)
2. The northern boundary corresponds to a stone wall shown in the 1902 plan
3. Location of the northwest corner is based on measurements of the abutting parcel described in Essex County Deeds 25:108 (Thomas Fiske [Jr.] to Samuel Fiske, 1709)
4. The middle stretch of the western boundary (some 900 feet) corresponds to a stone wall shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 1741:600 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass.," 1904)
5. Location of the southern boundary is based on the description of an abutting parcel described in Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severy [*sic*], 1684)

6. Since the gray area measures 69 acres, the upland's grant of 70 acres is suitably accounted for, and we can infer that the farm's southwest boundary corresponded to proto-Topsfield Road

The Eaton Road Lot

Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severy [*sic*], 1684) records the sale of the abutting property to the south and identifies Samuel Fiske (the tailor) as the abutter to the north. Apparently Fiske was working the Eaton Road lot as a tenant, because Essex County Deeds 11:106 (Elizabeth Endicott and John Newman, administrators, to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix, 1692) identifies William Fairfield as the owner.

In 1737 William Fairfield and Daniel Fiske made an exchange of parcels, agreeing that

contrary to our Original lines & bounds ... y^e lane between the s^d Fisks house & y^e s^d Fairfeilds Gate by his Barn originally was the s^d Fairfeilds is now the s^d Fisks by Exchange all except three feet in breadth all along the s^d Fairfeilds Orchard Stonewall.

See Essex County Deeds 79:157 (exchange of land between William Fairfield and Daniel Fiske, 1737). At the time of the exchange, Daniel Fiske (? –1761), son of Samuel Fiske (the tailor), already owned the two lots on either side of this one; see the discussion of the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm earlier in this appendix.

THE WILLIAM FISKE SR. FARM

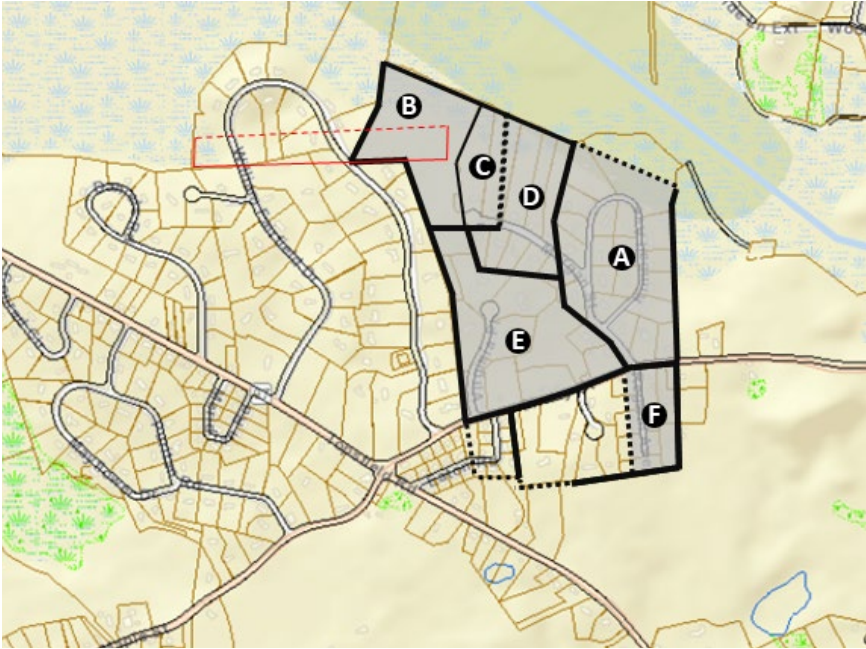


Figure B.11. Subdivisions of William Fiske Jr.'s portion of the William Fiske Sr. Farm.

Subdivisions

- A. To Benjamin Fiske, 1703
- B. To Theophilus Fiske, 1712
- C. To Theophilus Fiske, 1712
- D. To Theophilus Fiske, unrecorded
- E. To Ebenezer Fiske, 1712, site of the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House
- F. To Ebenezer Fiske, 1712

The Benjamin Fiske Farm

Boundaries

The boundaries shown are based on Essex County Deeds Plan 44:23 ("Land in Wenham, Mass. Belonging to Emily M. Currier," 1925) and Plan 96:80 ("Subdivision Plan, Ardmore Oval," 1961)—which were boundaries for the former Ober Farm that date from at least the 1780s. The dotted-line boundary is an extension of the ditch depicted in Essex County Deeds Plan 1961:273 ("Plan of Land in Wenham

Owned by Inez L. Murray & Edna W. Moynihan,” 1961); and Plan 98:58 (“Subdivision Plan, Ardmore Oval—Sect. II,” 1962). See also Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 36, which describes a 1704 grant of two acres to Deacon William Fiske Jr. and Benjamin Fiske. The grant was made the year after William conveyed the 25 acres to Benjamin.

History

Benjamin Fiske sold half of his house, barn and land to his brother Ebenezer in 1741. Benjamin died the next year, leaving his remaining portion of the house, barn and land to his widow Mary. She in turn sold her portion to Samuel Batchelder in 1743, and later that year Ebenezer Fiske and Samuel Batchelder divided up Benjamin’s former house, barn and land. Ebenezer Fiske received the house, barn and ten acres abutting proto-Cherry Street while Samuel Batchelder received the remaining land north of the house lot.¹⁷

In 1748 Ebenezer Fiske sold the house to Josiah Ober. See Essex County Deeds 147:247 (Ebenezer Fiske to Josiah Ober, 1748), ten-acre house lot. Josiah didn’t record his deed when he acquired the acreage to the north of his house lot (*i.e.*, the acreage that went to Samuel Batchelder in 1743); some of this acreage is referred to as being owned by Ober in Essex County Deeds 144:42 (Theophilus Fiske to Thomas Fiske, 1757), 134:116 (William Fiske to Amos Batchelder, 1772) and 144:169 (Thomas Fiske to Joseph Fairfield, 1785). In 1786 Josiah Ober sold his property—which had grown to 30 acres—to Ruth Tewksbury, but by the next year he was again the owner of the house. See Essex County Deeds 147:2 (Josiah Ober to Ruth Tewksbury, 1786); and 147:5 (Nathaniel Bragg *vs.* Josiah Ober Jr. and Josiah Ober, 1787), second parcel.

By descent in the Ober family from Josiah Ober Sr. (1719–1797) to his son Samuel Obear (1753–1833), and to Samuel’s grandson Samuel Ober (1805–1876, son of Oliver and Hannah (Kilham) Ober). Notice that the elder Samuel preferred the phonetic spelling of his family’s surname.¹⁸

17 Essex County Deeds 82:121 (Benjamin Fiske to Ebenezer Fiske, 1741); 84:156 (Mary Fiske to Samuel Batcheller [*sic*], 1743); and 84:164 (division of property between Ebenezer Fiske and Samuel Batcheller [*sic*], 1743). Essex County Probate 9494 (Benjamin Fiske, 1742), Will. Pierce (1896), 84.

18 For genealogy, see Essex County Probate 19956 (Samuel Obear, 1833), petition of widow Abigail Obear, identifying Samuel Ober (1805–1876) as the deceased’s only living grandchild; “Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910,” online database, AmericanAncestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 283:281; Wellington Pool, “Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham,” *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, 24 (1887):77; Pool, “Inscriptions from Gravestones in the Old Burying Ground in Wenham” (no publisher: 1887), 25 (accessed August 15, 2018 from Archive.org); Topsfield Historical Society, *Vital Records of Beverly, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss), 1 (1906):241; Charles Henry Chandler and Sarah Fiske Lee, *The History of New Ipswich*,

For subsequent history, see Essex County Probate 48560 (Samuel Ober, 1876), Will. See Essex County Deeds 1227:205 (Solomon E. Kimball, administrator, to Emily M. Currier, 1888); 1232:170 (Samuel Ober *et al.* to Emily M. Currier, 1888); 2654:288 (Emily M. Currier to Salem Five Cents Savings Bank, mortgage, 1925); 2678:256 (Emily M. Currier to Salem Five Cents Savings Bank, mortgage, 1926); 3004:125 (Emily M. Currier to Donald E. Currier, 1934), first parcel; 4708:170 (Donald E. Currier to Charles C. Hammer *et al.*, trustees, 1960); 4726:125 (Charles C. Hammer *et al.*, trustees, to Alan F. and Mary J. Johnson, 1960); 5216:228 (Alan F. and Mary J. Johnson to Robert and Virginia L. Widmer, 1964); and 14084:319 (Virginia L. Widmer to William H. Knopp and Carolyn S. Lackey, 1997). See Essex County Deeds Plan 31:14 ("Land in Wenham, Mass. Belonging to Emily M. Currier *et al.*," 1917); Plan 44:23 ("Land in Wenham, Mass. Belonging to Emily M. Currier," 1925); Plan 4726:125 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Clinton-Henry Co.," 1960); and Plan 96:80 ("Subdivision Plan, Ardmore Oval," 1961). Emily M. Currier, "The Old House and the New" (MS, 1934, Wenham Museum, X2010.591), quoted in Wenham Historical Association & Museum, *Wenham in Pictures and Prose* (Wenham, MA: Wenham Historical Association & Museum, 1992), 124-125.

Frank E. Wallis, C. Bertram French, E. P. Morrill, E. Eldon Deane, Theo. H. Skinner, C. M. Bill *et al.*, *The Georgian Period: Being Measured Drawings of Colonial Work* (American Architect & Building News Co., 1902), 13, dated the Fiske-Ober House to 1680, but without providing a rationale. Chandler and Lee (1914), 537, dated the Fiske-Ober House to "about 1680," also without providing a rationale. Thanks to the Ober family's multi-generation ownership of the house, historians have referred to it as "the Ober House" without acknowledging that the house was actually built for Benjamin Fiske.

The Theophilus Fiske Farm

Boundaries

The rectangular area outlined in red (which was outside William Fiske Sr.'s original grant) was a 127-rod by 22-rod lot owned by Thomas Fiske Jr., a description of which he recorded in 1693; see Wenham Historical Society (1940), 7. William Fiske Jr. owned it by January 1696, however, when he bought the abutting 60-acre property to the south; see Essex County Deeds 37:224 (John Newman to William Fiske [Jr.], 1696).

History

For history of the Theophilus Fiske House site, see Essex County Deeds 35:217 (William Fiske to Theophilus Fiske, 1712); and 144:42 (Theophilus Fiske to Thomas Fiske, 1757), western half of the house. See Essex County Probate 9518 (Theophilus Fisk[e], 1759), Will and Widow's Dower (1760). See Essex County Deeds 142:39

(Thomas Fisk[e] to John Friend, 1772), 3 acres with buildings; Essex County Probate 10212 (Dea. John Friend [Jr.], 1785), Will, bequest to son Benjamin Friend (1744–1807) of three acres with buildings improved by Thomas Fiske, and Inventory, half a house, barn and three acres occupied by Thomas Fiske; and probably Essex County Probate 10213 (John Friend [3rd], 1793), Inventory, “Fisks Wood Lot.” Eastern half of the house to Theophilus’s grandson Nathaniel Fiske (1740–1815); see Essex County Deeds 128:27 (Nathaniel Fiske to Benjamin Friend, 1767), first parcel, 16-acre portion of the farm, including the east half of the house.

The western portion of the Theophilus Fiske Farm (Subdivision B) was acquired by Israel A. Dodge by 1785, per the description of abutters in 114:169 (Thomas Fiske to Joseph Fairfield, 1785), and was incorporated with Dodge’s abutting land to the south. For subsequent history of Subdivision B, see 252:183 (Polly Dodge *et al.* to Uzziel Rea, mortgage, 1829) about 40 acres; 260:179 (Esther Barnes *et al.* to Uzziel Rea, mortgage, 1831), first parcel; 265:123 (Esther Barnes *et al.* to Israel D. Barnes, 1831), first parcel; 266:182 (Israel D. Barnes to Abraham Patch, 1832), first parcel; 925:70 (Abraham Patch to Mary Welch, 1875), first parcel; 925:70 (Horace and Mary Welch to Danvers Savings Bank, mortgage, 1875), first parcel; 1210:216 (Horace and Mary Welch to Anna W. Batchelder, 1887), first parcel; 2373:123 (Frank S. Prince *et al.* to Emma Weatherbee and Luther W. Batchelder, 1917), first parcel; 2666:263 (Luther W. Batchelder and Emma Weatherbee to Henry A. and Helen W. Erhard, 1925); 2666:264 (Henry A. and Helen W. Erhard to Luther W. Batchelder and Emma Weatherbee, mortgage, 1925); 2921:193 (Henry A. Erhard creation of the Helen Weber Erhard Trust, 1923); and 6634:180 (State Street Bank and Trust Company, and John W. and Henry E. Erhard, Trustees, to Ruth Z. A. Dougher, 1979). See Essex County Deeds Plan 1974:216 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Helen W. Erhard *et al.* Trs.,” 1974); and Plan 216:100 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Helen W. Erhard Trust,” 1985).

For Subdivisions C and D, see Essex County Deeds 144:42 (Theophilus Fiske to Thomas Fiske, 1757); and 144:169 (Thomas Fiske to Joseph Fairfield, 1785). See also Essex County Deeds 134:116 (William Fiske to Amos Batchelder, 1772), including internal reference to contemporary sale of abutting land by William Fiske to Benjamin Friend. For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 250:215 (Edward Perkins to Henry Perkins, 1829); 897:133 (Henry Perkins to Lakeman Southwick, 1874); 919:152 (Lakeman Southwick to George and Edwin Southwick, 1874); 1048:250 (George Southwick to Edwin Southwick, 1876); 1825:281 (Edwin Southwick to Clarence R. Sargent, 1906), fourth parcel; 1825:284 (Clarence R. Sargent to Oda Howe Nichols, mortgage, 1906), fourth parcel; 1825:289 (Clarence R. Sargent to Edwin Southwick, mortgage, 1906), fourth parcel; 1911:98 (Clarence R. Sargent to Susan A. Page, 1908); 2028:597 (Charles W. and Susan A. Page to Reuben D. Wetherbee and Edward J. Gibbons, 1910); and 2999:276 (Reuben D. Wetherbee to Frank T. Wentworth, 1934). See Essex County Probate 196423 (Edward J. Gibbons). See

Essex County Deeds 3812:372 (Mary E. Smith to Inez L. Murray and Edna L. Moynihan, 1951). See Essex County Probate 195333 (Frank T. Wentworth); and 200671 (Katherine T. Wentworth). See Essex County Deeds 4770:121 (Inez L. Murray and Edna W. Moynihan to Charles C. Hammer *et al.*, trustees, 1961). See Essex County Deeds Plan 1961:273 (“Plan of Land in Wenham Owned by Inez L. Murray & Edna W. Moynihan,” 1961); and Plan 98:58 (“Subdivision Plan, Ardmore Oval–Sect. II,” 1962).

The Ebenezer Fiske Farm, Subdivision E

History

In 1744 Bartholomew Dodge (1712–1793) bought the Theophilus Rix House on the south side of proto-Cherry Street across the road from the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House. Around the time he bought the Rix House he also started buying land north of the road, part of Subdivision E. Indeed, Essex County Deeds 89:248 (Jonathan Dodge to Bartholomew Dodge, 1747) documents Bartholomew’s purchase of nine acres 20 poles at the southeast corner of the former William Fiske Sr. Farm—and states that the parcel abutted land to the east (north of the road) that Bartholomew already owned. Bartholomew subsequently sold five acres of this lot to his son Israel Andrews Dodge; see Essex County Deeds 148:112 (Bartholomew Dodge to Israel Andrews Dodge, 1779), second deed, second parcel. Jonathan Dodge did not record his deed when he acquired the nine-acre 20-pole lot. As for the abutting property to the west, Bartholomew didn’t record his deed when he bought it, but we can surmise that this property was different from, and to the west of, the Newman-Fiske-Dodge House lot. Other land that seems to have been part of Subdivision E is recorded in Essex County Deeds 148:112 (Bartholomew Dodge to Israel Andrews Dodge, 1779), first deed.

By 1785 Dea. John Friend owned some property that had been part of Subdivision E, as he is identified as an abutter in Essex County Deeds 144:169 (Thomas Fiske to Joseph Fairfield, 1785), a lot that may have abutted the one described in 148:112, second deed, second parcel. Unfortunately, Friend didn’t record his deed when he acquired the abutting property.

The Ebenezer Fiske Farm, Subdivision F

Boundaries

Location of eastern boundary per 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), third division; 65:90 (Sarah Moulton 2nd to Samuel Moulton, 1733), first parcel; 87:82 (Samuel Moulton to Samuel Batcheller [*sic*], 1745), first parcel; 88:280 (Samuel Batchelder to Edward Webber, 1747); and 197:301 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Samuel Obear, mortgage, 1809).

Location of southern boundary per 167:217 (Adam Reddington to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1801); 197:301 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Samuel Obear, mortgage, 1809); 220:17 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Nathaniel Kimball, 1819); 230:78 (Israel A. Dodge to Henry Towne, 1822); 233:286 (Henry Towne to Uzziel Rea, mortgage, 1823); and

275:112 (Benjamin Merrill to Thomas Kimball [3rd], in trust for Ezra and Nancy Shattuck, 1834), first parcel. All of these deeds indicate that the southern boundary was the same line as the southern boundary of the former Theophilus Rix Farm.

History

This property was identified as being owned by Dea. William Fiske [Jr.] in Essex County Deeds 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), third division. From Dea. William to his son Ebenezer per Essex County Deeds 26:259 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Ebenezer Fiske, 1713). It was identified as being owned by Ebenezer Fiske in deeds from 1726, 1733 and 1745, per 57:58 (Theophilus Rix to James Rix, 1726), first parcel; 65:90 (Sarah Moulton 2nd to Samuel Moulton, 1733), first parcel; and 87:82 (Samuel Moulton to Samuel Batcheller [*sic*], 1745), first parcel.

By descent from Ebenezer Fiske to his son William Fiske (1726–1777). See Essex County Probate 9496 (Ebenezer Fisk [*sic*], 1771), Will and Inventory, 33½ acre homestead. See 133:92 (William Fiske to William Webber, 1773); 133:93 (William Webber to Nathaniel Brown, mortgage, 1774); and 139:15 (Anna Brown and Thomas Brown, executor, to William Webber, 1779). William Webber sold the property to Samuel Obear in 1793 per Essex County Deeds 158:37 (William Webber to Adam Reddington, 1793)—which is a deed for an abutting property—but Obear did not record his own deed.

Samuel Obear (1753–1833), son of Josiah and Hannah (Haskel) Ober, preferred the phonetic spelling of his family surname. He was identified as the owner of this property in four deeds for the abutting property to the west; see Essex County Deeds 168:87 (Israel Andrews Dodge to Oliver Dodge, 1800); 230:78 (Israel A. Dodge to Henry Towne, 1822); 233:286 (Henry Towne to Uzziel Rea, mortgage, 1823); and 275:112 (Benjamin Merrill to Thomas Kimball [3rd], in trust for Ezra and Nancy Shattuck, 1834), first parcel.

The property was subsequently acquired by the Shattuck family (deed not recorded), who subdivided it in 1851. For the northeastern corner lot of 4 to 4½ acres, see Essex County Deeds 450:124 (Sylvanus D. Shattuck to Ezra Shattuck, mortgage, 1851); 450:131 (Ezra Shattuck to Silvanus [*sic*] D. Shattuck, 1851); 464:186 (Sylvanus D. Shattuck to Moses Putnam, mortgage, 1852); 501:4 (Sylvanus D. Shattuck to Benjamin C. and John A. Putnam, 1853); 1258:329 (John A. Putnam to Martha P. Putnam, 1889), second parcel; 1288:51 (Martha P. Putnam to Emmeline S. Standley, 1890); 1288:52 (Emmeline S. Standley to Mary B. Putnam, mortgage, 1890); 1673:500 (Elbridge K. and Emmeline S. Standley to Harriet J. Hoag, 1902); 1742:465 (Frank N. and Harriet J. Hoag to Forman A. Crosby, 1904); 1742:466 (Forman A. Crosby to Emily M. Currier, 1904); 1819:497 (Emily M. Currier to Nellie A. Ferguson, 1906); 1819:498 (Nellie A. Ferguson to Emily M. Currier, mortgage, 1906); 1960:488 (John and Nellie A. Ordway to Lester E. Libby, 1909); 1989:173 (Lester E. Libby to George N. Julian Jr., 1909); 1989:175 (George N. Julian Jr. to Lester E. Libby, mortgage, 1909); and 2237:21 (George N. Julian Jr. to Bernard T. Leveque, 1913). See also the

“G. N. Julian” lot in *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), plate 34, and Essex County Deeds Plan 1956:216 (“Plan of Land Belonging to Bernard T. Leveque, Wenham, Mass.,” 1956). For the remainder of the Shattuck property (other than the northeast 4 to 4½ acres), see Essex County Deeds 499:40 (Ezra Shattuck to David S. Shattuck, 1854); 601:30 (Ezra and Nancy Shattuck to David S. Shattuck, 1860); 626:79 (David S. Shattuck to Henry A. White, 1861); 626:80 (Henry A. White to Abby M. Shattuck, 1861); 795:23 (David S. and Abby M. Shattuck to Sarah Jeffreys [*sic*], 1870); 819:232 (John and Sarah Jeffrey [*sic*] to George Flint, 1871); 851:226 (George Flint to Charles F. Flint, mortgage, 1872); 1223:36 (Caleb Buffum, administrator, to Caroline Hood, 1888); 1356:413 (Caroline Hood to John F. Flint, 1888); 1612:521 (John F. Flint to Caroline Hood, 1900); and 1646:451 (Caroline Hood to Emily M. Currier, 1901).

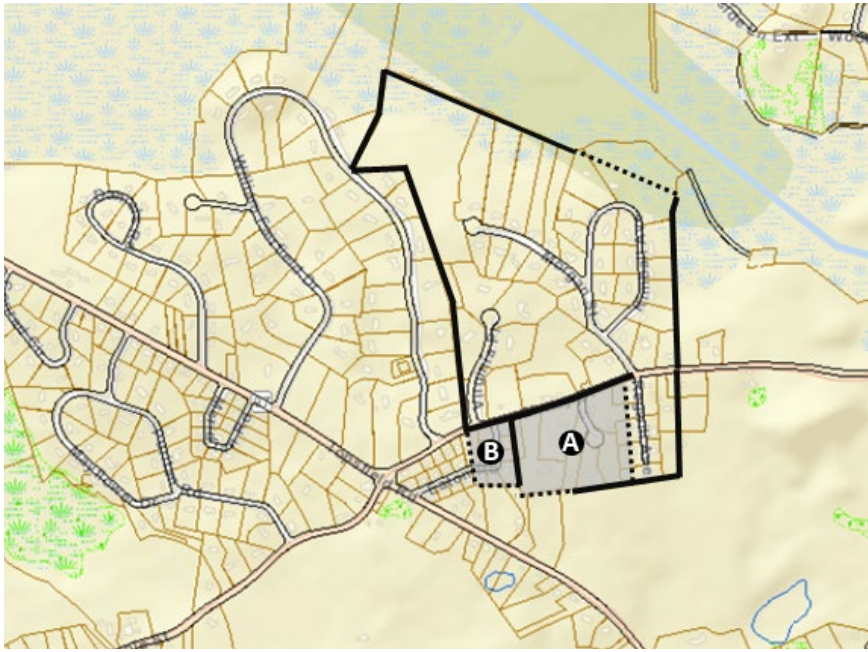


Figure B.12. Subdivision of the Samuel Fiske (the tailor) and Theophilus Rix portions of the William Fiske Sr. Farm.

Subdivisions

- A. To Theophilus Rix, by 1704
- B. The Butman Lot, to Samuel Fiske (the tailor)

The Theophilus Rix Farm

Conjectural eastern boundary of Subdivision A is based on Essex County Deeds 230:78 (Israel A. Dodge to Henry Towne, 1822); and 233:286 (Henry Towne to Uzziel Rea, mortgage, 1823), which describes five acres to the east of Flint Street, abutting the western boundary of Samuel Obear's lot.

The southern boundary is anchored on stone walls shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 52:17 ("Plan of Land in Wenham for Henry A. Erhard," 1927); Plan 119:52 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Belonging to M. Doris Poor," 1971); and Plan 119:58 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Massachusetts Audubon Society," 1971), sheet 2.

The boundary between Subdivision A and Subdivision B is anchored on the stone wall shown in Plan 52:17.

The Butman Lot

Boundaries

Eastern and southern boundaries based on Essex County Deeds 2752:321 (John J. Weatherbee *et al.* to Henry A. and Helen W. Erhard, 1927), first parcel (*i.e.*, the boundary between the Batchelder lot and land formerly owned by Butman) and shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 52:17 (Butman being erroneously rendered as “Buckman”).

The western boundary is a conjectural extension of the Fairfield-Fiske boundary on the north side of Cherry Street; as shown, this boundary is *close* to the historical boundary of the Butman Lot, but not exactly aligned with it.

History

This was one of a number of lots that Samuel Fiske assembled to create his farm. He conveyed it to his sons Daniel and Benjamin in 1716, per Essex County Deeds 36:167 (Samuel Fiske to Daniel and Benjamin Fiske, 1716). Owned by Daniel Fiske (? –1761) in 1726, 1734, 1737 and 1744 per 57:58 (Theophilus Rix to James Rix, 1726); 66:94 (James Rix to Samuel Batchelder, 1734), first parcel; 74:127 (Samuel Batchelder to Benjamin Batchelder, 1737), first parcel; and 88:40 (Benjamin Batchelder to Bartholomew Dodge, 1744). For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 89:247 (Jonathan Dodge to Jeremiah Dodge, 1747); and 107:26 (Jeremiah Dodge to Samuel Tarbox, 1759). Bequeathed to Tarbox’s daughters Rebekah Moulton (1739–1823) and Anna Conant (1742– ?); see Essex County Probate 27210 (Dea. Samuel Tarbox, 1784), Will and Inventory, “Sixteen acres of Dodges Land So-Caled [*sic*].” (The lot was owned by Tarbox’s heirs as late as 1789, Tarbox being identified as an abutter in this location in Essex County Deeds 148:223 (George Crowninshield to Thomas Clark, 1788) and 148:224 (Thomas Clark to John Baker Jr., 1789).) See Essex County Deeds 159:7 (Jonathan Moulton *et al.* to Richard Hood, 1794). The lot was subsequently owned by Samuel Obear by 1800, Obear being identified as an abutter in this location in 166:230 (John Baker [Jr.] to Benjamin Potter, 1800). For subsequent ownership, see Essex County Deeds 186:205 (Samuel Obear to Nathan Preston, 1809); 270:149 (Samuel Obear to Daniel Butman, 1813); 312:186 (Daniel Butman to James Butman, 1838); 312:186 (Daniel Butman to Priscilla Pike, 1838); 329:227 (James Butman to Charles Pike, 1842); 497:113 (Priscilla Pike *et al.* to Sarah Woodbury, 1854); 497:114 (Sarah Woodbury to Priscilla Pike, mortgage, 1854); 713:19 (Sarah Woodbury to Edward F. White, 1866); 863:200 (Edward F. White to Mary Dodge, 1872); 1015:226 (Mary Dodge to J. V. Haynes, 1879); 1181:6 (Luisa Haynes to George D. Tufts, 1886); 1630:497 (Edward H. Brown, trustee, to Edward L. Kimball, 1900); 2180:381 (Patrick A. McSweeney, commissioner, to Lester E. Libby, 1912); 2180:382 (Lester E. Libby to B. Hammond Tracy, 1912); and 2348:382 (B. Hammond Tracy to Mary A. Brennan, mortgage, 1916), second parcel. The western boundary of the lot is described in 2752:321 (John J. Weatherbee *et al.* to Henry A. and Helen W. Erhard, 1927), first parcel (the boundary between the Weatherbee lot and land formerly owned by Butman) and shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 52:17

(“Plan of Land in Wenham for Henry A. Erhard,” 1927), Butman being erroneous rendered as “Buckman.”

THE WILLIAM WELLMAN FARM

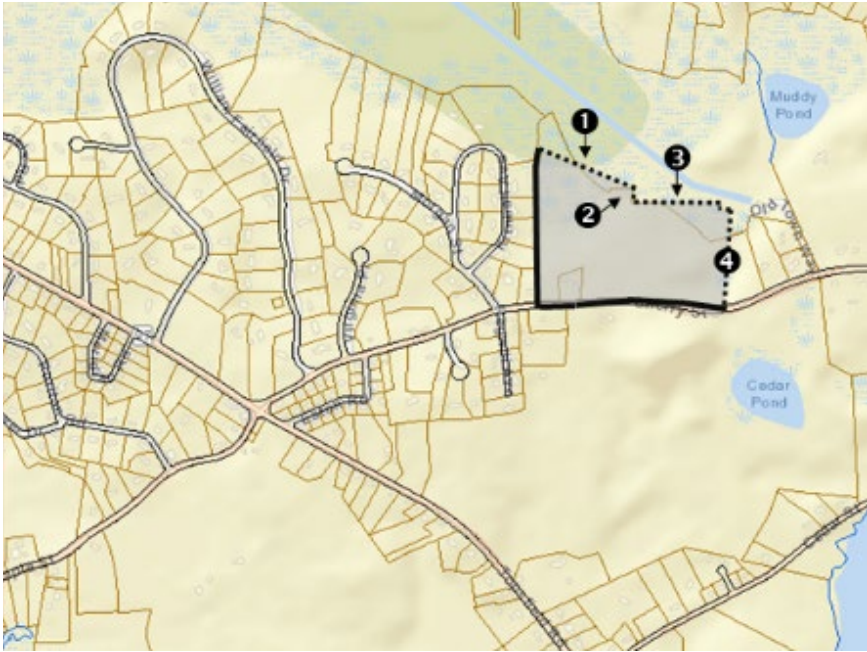


Figure B.13. The William Wellman Farm, by 1656.

Boundaries

1. Sited as an extension of the northern boundary of the William Fiske Sr. Farm as configured in 1692 (Figure B.11)
2. The Landing Place along the Great Swamp Highway
3. This boundary mapped in Essex County Deeds Plan 2284:551 ("Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board, Additional Supply, Land Takings," 1914), No. 3 and No. 4
4. Arbitrarily sited as an extension of the western boundary of the James Moulton Farm (Figure B.15)

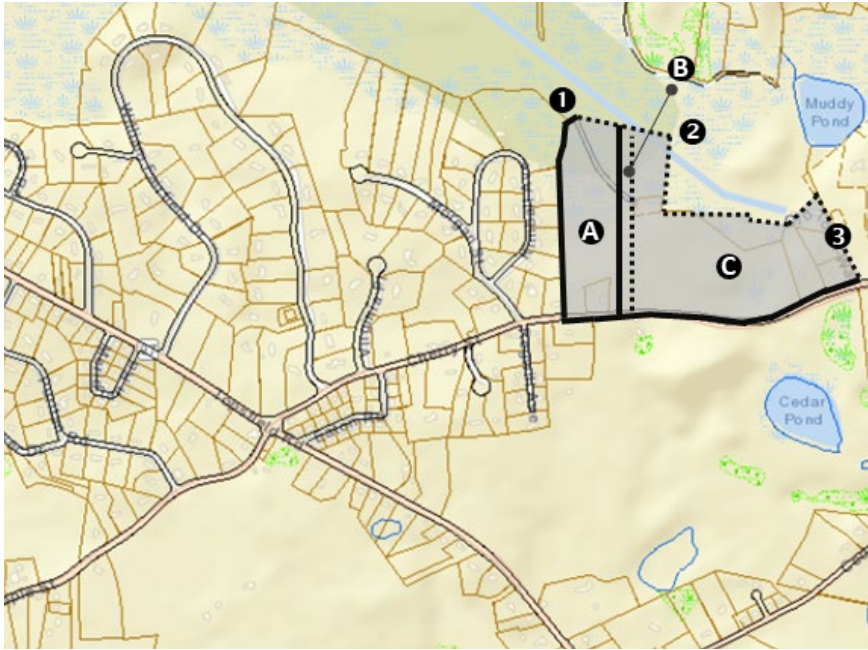


Figure B.14. Approximate location of the 50-acre farm bequeathed by John Batchelder Jr. to his sons in 1754.¹⁹

Boundaries

1. This corner is mapped in plans that were drawn in 1917 and 1971
2. This corner is mapped in plans that were drawn in 1914
3. This boundary is mapped in the 1910 atlas, and in plans drawn in 1914 and 1915

See Essex County Deeds Plan 2284:551 ("Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board, Additional Supply, Land Takings," 1914), No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5; Plan 2294:153 ("Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board, Additional Supply, Land Takings," 1915), No. 11; Plan 31:14 ("Land in Wenham, Mass. Belonging to Emily M. Currier *et al.*," 1917); and Plan 119:58 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Massachusetts Audubon Society," 1971). *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), plate 3

¹⁹ Essex County Probate 2080 (John Batchelder [Jr.], 1754), Will and Inventory.

Subdivisions

- A. To Samuel Batchelder, 1754
- B. To Benjamin Batchelder, 1754
- C. To John Batchelder 3rd, 1754

The Benjamin Batchelder Lot

For history, see John Batchelder Jr. bequest to son Benjamin Batchelder per Essex County Probate 2080 (John Batchelder [Jr.], 1754), Will and Inventory; and Frederick Clifton Pierce, *Batchelder, Batcheller Genealogy* (Chicago: W. B. Conkey Company, 1898), 357-358. See Essex County Deeds 103:61 (Benjamin Batchelder to Samuel Tarbox Jr., 1754); 113:39 (Samuel Tarbox [Jr.] to Samuel Batcheller [*sic*], 1760), first parcel; 154:242 (Samuel Batchelder to Daniel Kilham, 1792), first deed, first parcel; 163:66 (Daniel Kilham to Samuel Batchelder, 1793), first parcel; 157:293 (Samuel Batchelder to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1794), second parcel; 624:96 (William Moulton *et al.* to Charles Moulton, 1861); 1685:98 (Charles L. Moulton *et al.* to Lester E. Libby, 1902); and 1804:400 (Lester E. Libby to Francis L. Higginson Jr., 1905). See Essex County Probate 302205 (Francis L. Higginson [Jr.]), bequest to Massachusetts Audubon Society Inc.

The John Batchelder 3rd Lot

For history of the western portion of this lot, see Essex County Probate 2080 (John Batchelder [Jr.], 1754), Will and Inventory; and Pierce (1898), 357-358. See Essex County Deeds 101:258 (John [3rd] and Benjamin Batcheller [*sic*] to Daniel Gott, 1754); 110:211 (Mary Putnam, administratrix, and [Dr.] Amos Putnam to Samuel Batcheller [*sic*], 1760); 154:243 (Samuel Batchelder to Daniel Kilham, 1792); 157:293 (Samuel Batchelder to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1794), first parcel; 624:96 (William Moulton *et al.* to Charles Moulton, 1861); 1685:98 (Charles L. Moulton *et al.* to Lester E. Libby, 1902); and 1804:400 (Lester E. Libby to Francis L. Higginson Jr., 1905). See Essex County Probate 302205 (Francis L. Higginson [Jr.]), bequest to Massachusetts Audubon Society Inc.

The eastern portion of this lot was sold to brothers Edmund Kimball Jr. (1728–1759) and Capt. Thomas Kimball Sr. (1730–1805) in 1754, but they did not record their deed; see reference to the transaction in Essex County Deeds 101:258 (John [3rd] and Benjamin Batcheller [*sic*] to Daniel Gott, 1754). See Essex County Deeds 107:52 (Thomas Kimball [Sr.] to Edmund Kimball Jr., 1759). Owned by Paul Porter by 1861, per 624:96 (William Moulton *et al.* to Charles Moulton, 1861). For subsequent history, see Essex County Deeds 1391:569 (probate partition, estate of Samuel Porter, 1893); 2175:208 (Sidney Perley, commissioner, to Fred F. Porter, 1912), second parcel; 2304:476 (Fred F. Porter to City of Salem and City of Beverly, 1915); 2284:551 (Salem & Beverly Water Supply Board, statement as to taking of land, 1915), parcels 3A, 3B and 4; and *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), plate 34, “Mrs. W. Porter” lot. And see Essex County Deeds

1206:229 (Samuel Porter to Horace D. Eaton, 1887); 1206:342 (Horace D. Eaton to Samul Porter, mortgage, 1887); 1442:388 (Charles H. Jelly *et al.* to Lavinia E. Porter, 1895); 1442:389 (Lavinia E. Porter to Alice W. Mackintire, 1895); 1966:167 (Alice W. Mackintire to Carrie B. Merrill, 1909); 2295:552 (Carrie B. Merrill and Lester E. Libby to City of Salem and City of Beverly, 1915); 2284:551 (Salem & Beverly Water Supply Board, statement as to taking of land, 1915), parcel 5; 2294:153 (Salem & Beverly Water Supply Board, statement as to taking of land, 1915), parcel 11; Essex County Deeds Plan 1964:153 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., As Surveyed for Raymond R. Martel,” 1964); and *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), plate 34, “Miss C. B. Merrill” lot.

THE JAMES MOULTON FARM

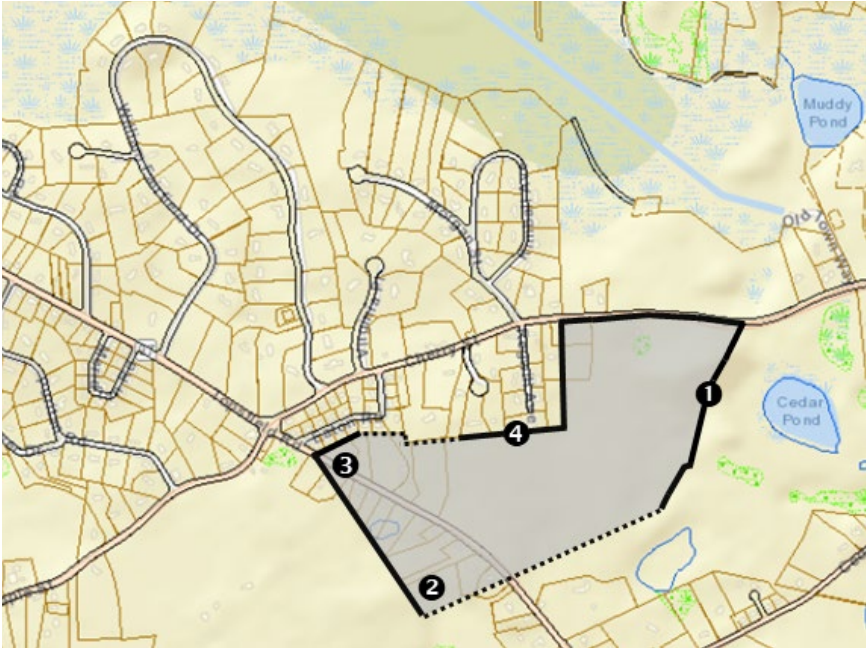


Figure B.15. The James Moulton Farm, 1639.

Boundaries

1. Full eastern boundary mapped in Essex County Probate 32325 (Adoniram J. Batchelder, 1878), division of Edmund Batchelder's Moulton Hill Wood Lot, description and map. Partial boundary mapped in Essex County Deeds Plan 1708:327 ("Plan of Land of F. L. Higginson Jr., Wenham, Mass.," 1903). The northeast corner of the 80-acre grant (*i.e.*, the Cherry Street terminus of this eastern boundary) corresponds today to a wooden fence post 55 feet to the east of a fire hydrant.
2. Location of southwest corner based on a 1695 description of the abutting Spooner-Porter Farm, *i.e.*, its reference to the corner of James Friend's 40 acres.²⁰ This corner corresponds to a corner in the stone walls shown in

²⁰ Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham, Vol. 2, 1679 to 1731*, MS, 9 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Town Records, frame 14); and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 21.

- Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 (“Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham,” 1910), corner boundary with Clarence E. Kimball; and Plan 96:35 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Owned by Mary B. Amory,” 1960), corner boundary kitty-corner to “Proposed Street.”
3. Location of northwest corner per lengths of boundaries provided in Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severett, 1684)
 4. Anchored on stone walls shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 52:17 (“Plan of Land in Wenham for Henry A. Erhard,” 1927); Plan 119:52 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass, Belonging to M. Doris Poor,” 1971); and Plan 119:58 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Massachusetts Audubon Society,” 1971), sheet 2

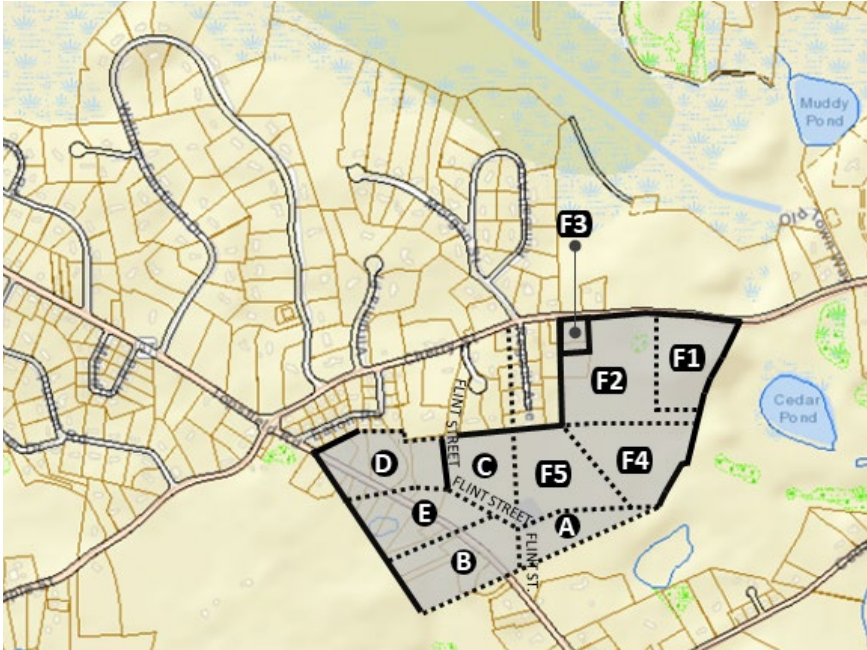


Figure B.16. Early subdivisions of the James Moulton Farm.

Subdivisions

- A. James Moulton Sr. to James and Mary (Moulton) Friend, 1680
- B. To James and Mary (Moulton) Friend, date unknown
- C. James Sr. or James Moulton Jr. to William Fiske Jr., by 1684
- D. James Moulton Jr. to John Severett, 1684
- E. John and Jonathan Moulton to William Fairfield, 1699
- F. John and Jonathan Moulton's division of their father's property, 1715
 - F1. The First Division, John Moulton's house lot
 - F2. The Second Division, Jonathan Moulton's house lot
 - F3. The Third Division, "John Moulton's Acre" (orchard)
 - F4. The Fourth Division, to John Moulton
 - F5. The Fifth Division, to Jonathan Moulton

The James and Mary (Moulton) Friend Five-Acre Lot

Boundaries

The northern and northwest boundaries shown for Subdivision A are based on Essex County Deeds Plan 29:29 ("Boundary Survey of Bomer and Wesel Lots, Wenham, Mass.," 1916): Subdivision A is conjecturally assigned as the overlap between (1) the John S. Bomer lot as mapped in Plan 29:29 and (2) the footprint of the James Moulton Farm.

History

This was the five-acre parcel "joining to the backside [*sic*] of [the James and Mary (Moulton) Friend] house" mentioned in James Moulton's will; see Essex County Probate 19018 (James Molton [*sic*], 1680), Will and Inventory. For subsequent history, see the history of the First James Friend House at Appendix G, footnote 3.

The James and Mary (Moulton) Friend Ten-Acre Lot

Boundaries

Western boundary anchored on Flint Street per 1738 description of the widow's third in Essex County Probate 10209 (John Friend, 1718), "Division of Real Estate of John Friend Late of Wenham, Deceased" (1738); and "Settlement of Estate of John Friend Late of Wenham, Dec'd" (1763), third division.

Eastern boundary described in a 1695 description of the abutting Spooner-Porter Farm.²¹ Anchored on the stone wall shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 ("Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham," 1910); and Plan 96:35 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Owned by Mary B. Amory," 1960).

History

It's not clear when James and Mary (Moulton) Friend acquired this particular parcel. Apparently bequeathed by James Friend to his son John Friend (1668–1718), per Essex County Probate 10205 (Dea. James Friend, 1718), Will. Assigned to John's widow Sarah (Dodge) Friend (1685–1763) per Essex County Probate 10209 (John Friend, 1718), "Division of Real Estate of John Friend Late of Wenham, Deceased" (1738), ten acres and 14 poles, and "Settlement of Estate of John Friend Late of Wenham, Dec'd" (1763), third division, bequest to son John Friend Jr. (1718–1785). See Essex County Probate 10212 (Dea. John Friend [Jr.], 1785), Will, bequest of 20 acres to son Benjamin Friend (1744–1807). See Essex County Deeds 147:227 (Benjamin Friend to John Dodge, 1788); 154:42 (John Dodge to William Webber, 1791); 172:1 (William Webber to Billy Porter, 1793); 172:1 (Billy Porter to James Friend [Jr.], 1800); 219:34 (James Friend [Jr.] to William Friend, mortgage, 1818), second parcel; 267:171 (John Porter 2nd, administrator, to John S. and William F. Bomer, 1832); 333:76 (John S. Bomer to William F. Bomer, 1842); 333:77 (William F. Bomer to Orsment Woodbury, mortgage, 1842); 342:21 (William F. Bomer to Francis A.

21 *Ibid.*

Bomer, 1844); 369:144 (William Goodhue, assignee, *et al.* to Augustus Beckett, 1846); 455:168 (Augustus Beckett to Elbridge Kimball, 1852); 2548:22 (Clarence E. Kimball to Marcia K. Wallis, 1923), second parcel; 2566:406 (George E. and Marcia K. Wallis to Mary Crawford Burnham, 1923); 2566:407 (George E. and Marcia K. Wallis to Helen Clark Burnham *et al.*, 1923); 3293:214 (Mary Crawford Burnham to Helen C. and John A. Burnham, 1942); 3393:165 (Clarence J. Giddings, executor, to Helen Clark Burnham and Mary Crawford Burnham, 1945), fifth parcel; and 3814:586 (Mary Crawford Burnham to Mary B. Amory, 1951). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 83:53 ("The Amory Subdivision, Wenham, Massachusetts," 1952); and Plan 96:35 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Owned by Mary B. Amory," 1960).

The William Fiske Jr. Lot

Boundaries

Eastern boundary (conjectural) is interpreted from Essex County Deeds 133:92 (William Fiske to William Webber, 1773), which describes a parcel of 29 acres and five poles, after solving for other overlapping lots.

History

This property was identified as being owned by Dea. William Fiske Jr. in Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severy [*sic*], 1684) and 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), fifth division.

Although owned by William Fiske Jr., it was apparently in the possession of Samuel Fiske (the tailor) in 1692, per abutters named in Essex County Deeds 11:106 (Elizabeth Endicott and John Newman, administrators, to Samuel Fiske and Theophilus Rix, 1692).

From Dea. William to his son Ebenezer per Essex County Deeds 26:259 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Ebenezer Fiske, 1713). It was identified as being owned by Ebenezer Fiske in 1733, per 65:90 (Sarah Moulton 2nd to Samuel Moulton, 1733), second parcel. Bequeathed by Ebenezer Fiske to his son William Fiske (1726–1777). See Essex County Probate 9496 (Ebenezer Fisk[e], 1771), Will and Inventory, 33½-acre homestead. See Essex County Deeds 133:92 (William Fiske to William Webber, 1773); 133:93 (William Webber to Nathaniel Brown, mortgage, 1774); 139:15 (Anna Brown and Thomas Brown, executor, to William Webber, 1779); 158:37 (William Webber to Adam Reddington, 1793); 167:217 (Adam Reddington to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1801); 197:301 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Samuel Obear, mortgage, 1809); 203:159 ([Capt.] John Moulton *et al.* to John Conant, 1814); 220:17 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Nathaniel Kimball, 1819); and 244:148 (John Conant to Nathaniel Kimball, 1819). See Essex County Probate 44414 (Nathaniel Kimball, 1855), Will and Inventory, for bequest of the John Moulton Farm to Nathaniel's grandson George. See Essex County Deeds 565:41 (George W. and Mary E. Kimball to William Peabody, 1858); 565:58 (William and Anna D. Peabody to William B. Morgan, 1858); 568:23 (William B. and Martha A. Morgan to Elbridge A. Dodge, 1858); and 2193:532 (Elizabeth N. Dodge *et al.* to Francis L. Higginson Jr., 1913). See Essex County

Probate 302205 (Francis L. Higginson [Jr.]), bequest to Massachusetts Audubon Society Inc. See also Essex County Deeds Plan 119:58 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Massachusetts Audubon Society," 1971).

The John Severett Farm

Boundaries

Lengths of boundaries provided via Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severett, 1684); 119:176 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to Bartholomew Dodge, 1765); and 119:177 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to Bartholomew Dodge, 1764).

The Severett Farm bordered both the Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm and the Theophilus Rix Farm to the north. See Essex County Deeds 57:58 (Theophilus Rix to James Rix, 1726); 66:94 (James Rix to Samuel Batchelder, 1734), first parcel; and 74:127 (Samuel Batchelder to Benjamin Batchelder, 1737), first parcel.

The eastern boundary was along Flint Street. See Essex County Deeds 114:223 (George Dodge to [Dr.] William Fairfield, 1763), first parcel; 116:175 (John Porter [Jr.] to George Dodge, 1763), first parcel; 119:177 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to Bartholomew Dodge, 1764); and 127:248 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to John Porter [Jr.], 1765). The frontage on Flint Street corresponded to the eastern boundary of the 2.63-acre parcel shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 52:17 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, For Henry A. Erhard, 1927). Considering the fact that the 1689 description of Flint Street²² seems to indicate that Severett's house was rather close to the road, this 2.63-acre lot was likely the site of the John Severett House.

The western boundary is a conjectural extension of a stone wall shown in Essex County Deeds Plan 122:19 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Dorothy W. Roland," 1972) that separated the Robinson and Streeter properties.

History

Essex County Deeds 33:42 (James Moulton [Jr.] to John Severy [*sic*], 1684). Severett had deeded his house to his son James (? –1723) on the condition that James take care of his aging parents. James, however, predeceased his father John, and John Severett ended up selling his farm to his neighbor John Porter Jr. (1683–*ca.*1775). See Essex County Deeds 30:113 (John Severy [Severett] to James Severy, 1715); and 47:226 (John Severett to John Porter Jr., 1727).

For subsequent history of the farm, see Essex County Deeds 116:175 (John Porter [Jr.] to George Dodge, 1763), first parcel; 114:223 (George Dodge to [Dr.] William Fairfield, 1763), first parcel; 119:176 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to Bartholomew Dodge, 1765); and 119:177 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to Bartholomew Dodge, 1764). It is noteworthy that the 1763 and 1764 deeds make no reference to the John Severett House, which suggests the house had disappeared by then. See also Essex County

22 Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham, Vol. 2, 1679 to 1731*, MS, unnumbered pages (Ancestry.com, Wenham Town Records, frames 8-9); and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (1940), 3-5.

Probate 7796 (Bartholomew Dodge, 1793), Inventory, twelve-acre "Savaray Lot," which became the property of his son Israel Andrews Dodge (bp.1749–1823). For genealogy, see Joseph Thompson Dodge, *Genealogy of the Dodge Family of Essex County, Mass.* (Madison, WS: Democrat Printing Company, 1894), 64–65, 106.

For subsequent history of the western part of the farm, see 168:87 (Israel Andrews Dodge to Oliver Dodge, 1800), second parcel; 168:88 (Oliver Dodge to Israel Andrews Dodge, mortgage, 1800), second parcel; and 213:152 (Oliver Dodge to Israel Andrews Dodge, 1817), second parcel, all three documents (despite the wording of the 1763 and 1764 deeds) making reference to a house on the lot. See also Essex County Probate 7868 (Israel A. Dodge, 1823), Will and Inventory. See also Essex County Deeds 280:211 (Polly Dodge to Samuel Dodge, 1824), no reference being made to a house; 284:190 (Polly Dodge to Rebekah Dodge, 1835); 298:196 (Rebekah Dodge, guardian, to Paul Porter, 1835); 312:197 (Rebekah Dodge, guardian, to Charles Pike, 1835); 497:113 (Priscilla Pike *et al.* to Sarah Woodbury, 1854); 497:114 (Sarah Woodbury to Priscilla Pike, mortgage, 1854); 713:19 (Sarah Woodbury to Edward F. White, 1866); 863:200 (Edward F. White to Mary Dodge, 1872); 1015:226 (Mary Dodge to J. V. Haynes, 1879); 1181:6 (Luisa Haynes to George D. Tufts, 1886); 1630:497 (Edward H. Brown, trustee, to Edward L. Kimball, 1900); 2180:381 (Patrick A. McSweeney, commissioner, to Lester E. Libby, 1912); 2180:382 (Lester E. Libby to B. Hammond Tracy, 1912); 2348:382 (B. Hammond Tracy to Mary A. Brennan, mortgage, 1916), second parcel; 2748:542 (Beacon Trust Company to Anthony J. J. Rourke, 1927), second parcel; 2748:545 (Anthony J. J. Rourke to Beacon Trust Company, mortgage, 1927), second parcel; 2976:513 (Ellen M. Hart to Albina M. Mitchell, 1933), second parcel; 3031:251 (Albina M. Mitchell to Evelyn V. Haszard, 1935); 3785:146 (Owen S. and Evelyn V. Haszard to Danvers Savings Bank, mortgage, 1950); 4534:115 (Evelyn V. Haszard to Derrick Perkins, 1959); 4534:116 (Derrick Perkins to Evelyn V. Haszard, mortgage, 1959); 4870:265 (Derrick Perkins to Liberty Research Co., Inc., 1961); and 5178:736 (Marion W. Batchelder to Liberty Research Co., Inc., 1964). See also Essex County Deeds 1346:8 (Joseph A. White *et al.* to Harriet M. White, 1891, first third and fourth parcels; 1511:467 (Mary L. Glavin *et al.* to Harriet M. Roberts, 1897), first, third and fourth parcels; 1517:128 (Hiram L. and Harriet M. Roberts to Harriet Gertrude Batchelder, 1897), first, third and fourth parcels; 2623:344 (Luther W. Batchelder, administrator, to Alden W. Batchelder, 1924), first parcel and third parcels; 2623:345 (Alden W. Batchelder to Luther W. Batchelder, 1924), first and third parcels; 2849:500 (Alden W. Batchelder to Roscoe B. Batchelder, 1930), first and second parcels; and 4510:122 (Muriel A. Batchelder *et al.* to Marion W. Batchelder, 1958). See also Essex County Deeds Plan 102:33 ("Plan of Land in Wenham, Property of Liberty Research Co. Inc. & Marion W. Batchelder," 1964).

For subsequent history of the easternmost portion of the John Severett Farm (abutting Flint Street), see Essex County Deeds 241:170 (Polly Dodge to Paul Porter, 1823). See also Essex County Probate 50713 (Paul Porter, 1861), Inventory, "Dodge's Orchard." See Essex County Deeds 1081:239 (William and Samuel Porter,

executors, to Lydia White, 1862), she the daughter of Paul Porter and the wife of Amos C. White (who was referred to in deeds for the abutting property as the owner of this lot); 1081:240 (Lydia White to Edward F. White, 1882); 1641:178 (Edward F. White to Harriet G. Batchelder, 1901); 2623:345 (Alden W. Batchelder to Luther W. Batchelder, 1924), fifth parcel; and 2752:322 (Luther W. Batchelder to Francis L. Higginson, 1927). See Essex County Deeds Plan 52:17 (“Plan of Land in Wenham for Henry A. Erhard,” 1927), 2.63-acre lot.



Figure B.17. The house formerly at 128 Topsfield Road, identified as the house of “J[oseph] White” in the 1872 atlas of Essex County.²³

23 D. G. Beers & Co., *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co., 1872. November 30, 2019 photograph by Robert O. Corcoran. Toured surreptitiously by the author prior to its impending demolition, the house was being marketed at the time as dating from 1769, raising the possibility that the house was built by Bartholomew Dodge (1712–1793). Supporting the hypothesis of eighteenth-century construction, in the cellar one could see vertical saw marks on the boards of the first story subfloor, floor joists, and rear chimney girt. The foundation of the left-hand chimney (which served both the left side of the house proper and the ell) was brick with a full walk-through arch; the foundation of the right-hand

The William Fairfield Lot

Boundaries

The northeast corner was the “gate post standing on the way [highway, also known as Flint Street] by Severett’s corner,” per Essex County Deeds 13:287 (John and Jonathan Moulton to William Fairfield, 1699).

The southern boundary is conjectural, and is based on the parcel’s eight-acre size (per Essex County Deeds 13:287).

The lot abutted land of John Porter on the southwest, per Essex County Deeds 13:287.

History

For history see Essex County Deeds 13:287 (John and Jonathan Moulton to William Fairfield, 1699); 18:37 (William Fairfield to John and Jonathan Moulton, 1701); 18:38 (John and Jonathan Moulton to William Fiske [Jr.], 1702); 26:259 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Ebenezer Fiske, 1712). See Essex County Probate 9496 (Ebenezer Fisk[e], 1771, Will and Inventory), bequest of 33½ acres to son William Fiske (1726–1777). To Dea. John Friend Jr. (1718–1785), but deed not recorded; see Essex County Probate 10212 (Dea. John Friend [Jr.], 1785), Will, bequest of twenty acres to son Benjamin Friend (1744–1807). See Essex County Deeds 147:227 (Benjamin Friend to John Dodge, 1788); 154:42 (John Dodge to William Webber, 1791); 172:1 (William Webber to Billy Porter, 1793); 172:1 (Billy Porter to James Friend [Jr.], 1800); 219:34 (James Friend [Jr.] to William Friend, mortgage, 1818), second parcel; 267:171 (John Porter 2nd, administrator, to John S. and William F. Bomer, 1832); 333:76 (John S. Bomer to William F. Bomer, 1842); 333:77 (William F. Bomer to Orsment Woodbury, mortgage, 1842); 342:21 (William F. Bomer to Francis A. Bomer, 1844); 369:144 (William Goodhue, assignee, *et al.* to Augustus Beckett, 1846); and 455:168 (Augustus Beckett to Elbridge Kimball, 1852). But see also Essex County Deeds 280:211 (Polly Dodge to Samuel Dodge, 1824); and 284:190 (Polly Dodge to Rebekah Dodge, 1835). Apparently to Paul Porter, but deed not found. See Essex County Deeds 638:75 (Samuel Porter to Amos A. White, trustee, 1862), 3 acres; 1346:8 (Joseph A. White *et al.* to Harriet M. White, 1891, second and third parcels; 1511:467 (Mary L. Glavin *et al.* to Harriet M. Roberts, 1897), second and third parcels; 517:128 (Hiram L. and Harriet M. Roberts to Harriet Gertrude Batchelder, 1897), second and third parcels; 2623:344 (Luther W. Batchelder, administrator, to Alden W. Batchelder, 1924), second and third parcels; 2623:345 (Alden W.

chimney (which was aligned against the back wall of the house proper) was brick with a blind arch. The fireplace in the ell had a bake oven with a hinged iron door. Although the house had retained one nineteenth-century mantel (in the first story right-hand room)—rather plain, Greek Revival-inspired—no other interior details appeared to date any earlier than the late nineteenth century. By November 2019 the house was in miserable shape; saving whatever material was salvageable and restoring the rest would have been very costly indeed. It was torn down December 26–27, 2019.

Batchelder to Luther W. Batchelder, 1924), second and third parcels; and 2849:500 (Alden W. Batchelder to Roscoe B. Batchelder, 1930), second parcel. See *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham* (1910), plate 34, two of the “L. W. Batchelder” lots; and Essex County Deeds Plan 52:17 (“Plan of Land in Wenham for Henry A. Erhard,” 1927), 2.51-acre lot.

John and Jonathan Moulton’s Division of their Father’s Property

In 1715 John and Jonathan Moulton divvied up the property that they had inherited from their father James Jr. Their arrangement resulted in two house lots (discussed in Chapter 1), a one-acre orchard and two pastures—five parcels sited in such a way that neither brother owned two parcels that were contiguous to each other—an arrangement that cleverly ensured that both brothers would always be crossing each other’s land. (Not exactly a communal approach to land management, but an interesting way to promote cooperative behavior.)

The First Division

Lengths of eastern and southern boundaries per Essex County Deeds 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), first division. For history of this lot, see footnote 210 in Chapter 1.

The Second Division

The location of the southern boundary is conjectural, since the acreage of the Second Division was not recorded in 65:90 (John and Jonathan Moulton’s division of property, 1715), second division. For history of this lot, see footnote 212 in Chapter 1.

The Third Division

Boundaries

Referred to as “John Moulton’s Acre,” the Third Division was an orchard that measured 12 rods by 15 rods. It is anchored on a stone wall depicted in Essex County Deeds Plan 2355:1 (“Plan of Land of Emily M. Currier,” 1916), and Plan 119:58 (“Plan of Land in Wenham, Mass., Property of Massachusetts Audubon Society,” 1971), sheet 2, with the assumption made that this wall is on the site of the wall described in Essex County Probate 19028 (Jonathan Moulton, 1801), Widow’s Dower (1802).

History

For its early history, see Essex County Deeds 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), third division, to John Moulton. Ownership of the Third Division passed from John Moulton (1668–1755) to his son John Jr. (1698–1760), to John Jr.’s son Jonathan (1737–1801), and to Jonathan’s son Capt. John Moulton (1762–1824). See Essex County Probate 19021 (John Moulton, 1755), Inventory, “about one acre lying on the road between Edward Webber and Decon [*sic*] [Ebenezer] Fisk [*sic*]”; 19022 (John

Moulton [Jr.], 1760), Inventory; and 19028 (Jonathan Moulton, 1801), Inventory (1801) and Widow's Dower (1802), the Little Orchard. See also Essex County Deeds 160:238 (Rebekah Moulton *et al.* to Jonathan Moulton, 1796); 199:188 (Tarbox Moulton to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1813); and 204:68 (Billy Moulton to Daniel Moulton, 1814).

The Fourth Division

Boundaries

As described in Essex County Deeds 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), fourth division, to John Moulton. Location of northwest corner per 65:90. Conjectural southwestern boundary interpreted from Essex County Deeds 133:92 (William Fiske to William Webber, 1773), which describes a parcel of 29 acres and five poles abutting to the west.

History

For its early history, see Essex County Deeds 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), fourth division, to John Moulton. Ownership of the Fourth Division passed from John Moulton (1668–1755) to his son John Jr. (1698–1760), to John Jr.'s son Jonathan (1737–1801), and to Jonathan's son Capt. John Moulton (1762–1824). See Essex County Probate 19021 (John Moulton, 1755), Inventory, “ab[o]ut sixteen acres ajoyning [*sic*] the house”; 19022 (John Moulton [Jr.], 1760), Inventory; and 19028 (Jonathan Moulton, 1801), Inventory, 30-acre homestead. See also Essex County Deeds 160:238 (Rebekah Moulton *et al.* to Jonathan Moulton, 1796); 199:188 (Tarbox Moulton to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1813); and 204:68 (Billy Moulton to Daniel Moulton, 1814). For subsequent ownership, see 197:301 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Samuel Obear, mortgage, 1809); 203:159 ([Capt.] John Moulton *et al.* to John Conant, 1814); 220:17 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Nathaniel Kimball, 1819); and 244:148 (John Conant to Nathaniel Kimball, 1819). For subsequent history, see that of the Second Division, beginning with Essex County Probate 44414 (Nathaniel Kimball, 1855), Will and Inventory.

The Fifth Division

For its history, see Essex County Deeds 65:90 (division of property between John and Jonathan Moulton, 1715), fifth division, to Jonathan Moulton; and 65:90 (Sarah Moulton 2nd to Samuel Moulton, 1733), second parcel. To Ebenezer Fiske, but deed not recorded. Bequeathed by Ebenezer Fiske to his son William Fiske (1726–1777). See Essex County Probate 9496 (Ebenezer Fisk[e], 1771), Will and Inventory, 33½-acre homestead. See Essex County Deeds 133:92 (William Fiske to William Webber, 1773); 133:93 (William Webber to Nathaniel Brown, mortgage, 1774); 139:15 (Anna Brown and Thomas Brown, executor, to William Webber, 1779); 158:37 (William Webber to Adam Reddington, 1793); 167:217 (Adam Reddington to [Capt.] John Moulton, 1801); 197:301

([Capt.] John Moulton to Samuel Obear, mortgage, 1809); 203:159 ([Capt.] John Moulton *et al.* to John Conant, 1814); 220:17 ([Capt.] John Moulton to Nathaniel Kimball, 1819); and 244:148 (John Conant to Nathaniel Kimball, 1819). For subsequent history, see that of the Second Division, beginning with Essex County Probate 44414 (Nathaniel Kimball, 1855), Will and Inventory.

APPENDIX C: EARLY DEEDS

JOHN FISKE TO CHARLES GOTT JR. AND DANIEL GOTT, NOVEMBER 30,
1665

Fifty-Acre Lot to the West of the Phineas Fiske Farm¹

7: 10 mo: 1669 [*sic*]

This writing made the thirtieth of November in the yeare one thousand, six hundred, sixty five, witnesseth that I, John Fisk, carpenter, inhabiting in y^e Toune of Wenham in y^e County of Essex, doe for myselfe, heires, executors & assignes, cleerely bargain, sell & make over unto Charles Gott & Daniell Gott, both inhabiting in y^e Toune & County before named, to them theire heirs, executors, administrators & assigns, for & in consideration of y^e full & just sume of thirty & two pounds, alredy paid in hand by bill before the ensealing heareof, a p^rcell of land, containing the sume of fifty acres of land, scittuate within the bounds of Wenham, in part or neere about the line that runs betwixt Salem & Wenham, bounded as followeth, north upon Mr. Osbands [Osbourne's] farme & south upon the land of y^e aforesd John Fisk, westerly upon Leaches meddow & east upon y^e land of Phineas Fisk, this aforesd premisses, with all & singuler y^e premisses, I doe confirme unto the p^rties before named, peaceably to injoye, without any lawfull expulsion [...] disturbance or deniall by y^e aforesd John Fisk, his heires or assignes, or by any p^rson by or from them assigned: whereunto I have sett my hand & seale, in y^e daye & yeare above specified. Remember Fisk doe by these pr^sents resigne up my right in the land above specified.

sealed & delivered

John Fisk

in the pr^sence of

& a seale.

Mark Bachelor.

Remember Fisk.

John Bachelor.

John Fisk acknowledged this to be his act & deed.

1 Essex County Deeds 3:72 (John Fiske to Charles [Jr.] and Daniel Gott, 1665).

30: 9 mo: 69.

Wm. Hathorne, Assistant.

Recorded this 7: 10 mo: 69 p'one

Hillyard Veren, Recorder.

DANIEL KILHAM TO JOHN GILBERT AND DANIEL KILHAM JR., AUGUST 17, 1688

Three Parcels, Including a 25-Acre Lot to the East of Thomas Kilham's Homestead²

Daniel Kellum Senr. to his sons Kellum & Gilbert

January: 22: 1688:9

This Indenture made this seventeenth day of August in y^e fourth yeare of y^e raigne of our Sovereigne Lord James the 2^d by the grace of God of England &c. King defender of the faith &c. between Daniel Kellum Senr. of Ipswich in the county of Essex in New England husbandman on the one part & John Gilbert & Daniel Kellum Junr. of Ipswich in y^e Same county, husbandman [*sic*] on y^e other part, witnesseth, that y^e said Daniel Kellum Senr. for & in consideracon of a bond given to him by y^e abovesd John & Daniel for y^e performance of Sundry duties to which they have obliged themselves, refference whereto being had may appeare, as alsoe a bond given by them to Nathaniel Saltonstall Esqr. of Haverill, in New England, for the payment of one hundred and fiteene pounds, in wheate, porke and malt, as may appeare by the bond hath granted, sold, aliened, enfeofed and confirmed, and by these presents doth grant, sell, enfeofe & confirme to y^e sd John Gilbert & Daniel Kellum, thier hiers and assignes forever, the remander of a parcel of land lying in Wenham, near y^e meetinghouse, in estimation twenty five acres, having given to his son Daniel Kellum 12 akers of it, as may appeare by deed^[3] wch parcel of land is bounded southerly by sd 12 akers given his said sonne Daniel on y^e west by Serg't Batchelor & John P[...]*kinson*, on y^e east by Lieut. Gott their land, on y^e north by Ipswich line, together with all y^e fences, tenaments, woods, ways, profits, priviledges, comonages, comodities & appurtenances to y^e premises belonging or any way ap-

2 Essex County Deeds 8:108 (Daniel Kilham to John Gilbert and Daniel Kilham Jr., 1688).

3 See Essex County Deeds 8:109 (Daniel Kilham to Daniel Kilham [Jr.], 1688), being a gift of "my house & twelve acres of land, in y^e bounds of Wenham ... near y^e meeting house." This meeting house was either the Second Meeting House or perhaps the Third Meeting House that was under construction at the time of the deed. Regardless, both the Second and Third Meeting Houses were in the approximate vicinity of the Civil War monument on Main Street.

pertaining. To have & to hold the above said land, with all & singuler the appurtenances and priviledges thereunto belonging, as alsoe a parcel of land in y^e woods in estimacon twenty five acres, bounded on y^e north by land of Samuel Fiske, William Fairefield & William Fiske, on y^e west by y^e land of Thomas Kellum, southward & eastward by y^e land of John Porter and Wenham comon, which land lyeth in Wenham and alsoe twenty acres of land lying in Ipswich, bounded on y^e south by y^e land of John Gilbert, on y^e north by y^e land of Daniel Danison, on y^e east by y^e land of Sarg^t Hutton, on y^e west by Capt Eppes his land. To have & to hold the abovesd parts & parcels of land with all y^e appurtenances & priviledges thereto belonging or in any wayes appertaining, herein Sold, granted & confirmed to y^e sd John and Daniel their heirs & assignes forever: and y^e sd Daniel Kellum senir for himself, his heirs, executors & administrators, doth covenant, promise and grant to and with y^e sd John and Daniel their heirs and assigns by these presents, that the said John & Daniel their heirs and assignes, shall and lawfully may from time to time & at all times heareafter, peaceably & quietly have, hold and enjoy y^e sd lands without let or interupcon of or by him the said Daniel Kellum Senr or any other person or persons lawfully claiming by, from or under him and that said Daniel, his heirs, executors, administrators and assignes of from all and every action, right, title, interest & demand, he and every of them to be utterly excluded & forever debarred by these presents. In witness whereof I have sett to my hand Y& seal this seventeenth day of August in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand, six hundred, eighty and eight.

Signed, sealed & dd. being interlined
between 15th & 16th lines these
words (in estimacon twenty five
acres) in y^e presence of us.

Richard Hutton

his R.H. marke.

Thomas Fiske.

Daniel Kellum appearing personally acknowledged y^e above written instrument to be his act & deed, before me one of the Councill of his Majesties Territory of New England.

before

me

Wm. Broome

~~Assistant.~~

the 13th September, 1688.

Daniel Kellum Senr.

his marke

& a seale.

CHARLES GOTT JR. TO [LIEUT.] JOHN GOTT, JULY 10, 1696
Fifteen-Acre Lot to the West of Thomas Kilham’s Homestead⁴

Charles Gott Sen^r & his sons agreem^t recorded Decemb^r 5th 1702

This writing made this 10 day of July 1696 in y^e year of our lord & y^e Eighth year of King Williams Reign betwixt Charles Gott Sen^r & John Gott his sonn. Both Living in wenham in y^e County of Essex in New England witnesseth that for & in consideracion of y^e full & just sum of twenty six pounds of currant silver mony of new England already Secured by bill to y^e abovesaid Charles Gott by his Son John Gott Before y^e Sealing hereof The aforesaid Charles have Clearly bargained & Sold and do by these presents Clearly bargain & Set over unto y^e afores^d John Gott all y^e remainder of his Land Lying In wenham in y^e woods which belonged to y^e farm Called Trusslers Containing about fifteen acres more or Less as it is Bounded on y^e aforesaid John Gott his Land Southerly & on his Brother Charles Gott his Land northerly & on John Leach westerly and on William Fiske & Thomas Kellum their Land Easterly wth all and singular y^e apurt^{ces}: thereunto Belonging To have and to hold to him the Said John Gott & his heirs for Ever & fully to Enjoy wthout any Lawfull Lett disturbance or denial By any person or persons whatsoever By under or from me y^e aforesaid Charles Gott & he shall possess it free from all my Debts quietly & I do warrant my power to make this deed of Sale in my own name & right & y^e Said John Gott shall provide his Brother Charles Gott a way for Cart or Sledd to his fifteen acres of land on which John Gott is bounded northerly through his own Land So Long as his Brother Charles or his heirs Shall want y^e way In witness whereof The aforesaid Charles Gott sen^r have hereunto set his hand & Seale

Charles Gott & seale

witness William Fiske	}	Essex SS. Charles Gott psonally appeared before me y ^e subscriber the 31 Decemb ^r 1696 being one of his maj ^{ties} Justices for s ^d County & acknowledged y ^e above written Instrum ^t to be his act & Deed
his		
Thomas x Tarbox		
Mark	}	
Exam ^d [...] Sewall		Jonathan Corwin
Record ^r		

4 Essex County Deeds 15:106 (Charles Gott [Jr.] to John Gott, 1696). Although the recorder’s caption describing the deed referred to “Charles Gott Senr,” the grantor was Charles Gott, Jr. (1639–1708), son of Charles Gott the emigrant who had died in 1668. The deed’s grantee was Lieut. John Gott (1668–1723). The “brother Charles Gott” was Charles Gott 3rd, born in 1662. See Edith G. Mills, “The Gott Family,” *The Essex Genealogist*, 3 (1983):23, 26.

THOMAS KILHAM TO WILLIAM FAIRFIELD, JULY 22, 1701
 Twenty-Five-Acre Farm with Dwelling House, Barn, Orchard & Two Additional Parcels⁵

Thomas Killams Deed To William Fairfield recd on record March 14, 1701/2

To all Christian people to whom this present deed of sale shall come Thomas Killam sendeth greeting know yee y^t for & in consideration of one hundred & forty pounds in hand paid & secured to be paid in mony unto me y^e said Thomas Kilham of wenham in y^e county of Essex & province of y^e massachusetts Bay in new England yeoman by William ffairfield of wenham in y^e county & province aboves^d yeoman y^e receipt whereof and Every part thereof I so acknowledge to have had & rec^d & therewth all my self fully satisfied contented & paid have wth Martha my wife given granted bargained and sold & by these presents do give grant bargain & sell convey & confirm unto y^e aboves^d William Fairfield & his hiers for Ever my Dwelling house & barn & orchard with twenty and seven acres of land both upland & meadow lying & being in three pcells as they are hereafter severally Butted and Bounded all in the township of wenham y^e house lott being about twenty five acres is bounded on y^e northwest wth y^e land of John Gott & on y^e southwest by y^e land of samuel Fiske sould him by John Leach!^[6] coming at y^e south corner to y^e white oak tree!^[7] standing at y^e corner of Wenham common land & on y^e SouthEast by a streight line from y^e white oak afores^d to a stake stand at the Edge of y^e said fairfields land parting y^e land of samuel Fiske & y^e s^d Killam at y^e End of thier divisionall fence as it now standeth & on y^e northeast it boundeth upon y^e land of William Fiske & William Fairfield and one acre of meadow lying in y^t meadow Known by y^e name of lords meadow!^[8] bounded on y^e northeast by John Gotts meadow bought of Cap Fisk and on y^e

5 Essex County Deeds 15:63 (Thomas Kilham to William Fairfield, 1701).

6 The deed memorializing this transaction wasn't recorded with Essex County. Could this have been the 1½-acre lot called "Fiske's Little Piece" described in Essex County Deeds 89:248 (Jonathan Dodge to Josiah Fairfield, 1747), second parcel? Or was this perhaps the land "in ye possession of Samuel Fiske" mentioned in Essex County Deeds 19:88 (Nicholas Rich and Peter Thomson to Joseph and John Herrick, 1697), and discussed in the context of the Herrick Lot of the Thomas Trusler Farm shown in Figure B.5?

7 This appears to be the same white oak tree mentioned in a 1695 description of the boundaries of the John Porter Farm (formerly the Thomas Spooner Farm). See Town of Wenham, *Town Records of Wenham, Vol. 2, 1679 to 1731*, MS, 9 (Ancestry.com, Wenham Town Records, frame 14), transcribed at footnote 137 of Chapter 1; and Wenham Historical Society, *Wenham Town Records, Supplement to Vol. I, 1687–1706* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss 1940), 21. It may also be the same white oak mentioned as the southwest boundary point in Essex County Deeds 89:248 (Jonathan Dodge to Josiah Fairfield, 1747), first parcel.

8 "Lord's Meadow" was a portion of the Great Meadow that had been owned, apparently, by William Lord—namesake of Lord's Hill.

northwest upon Caleb Kimball & y^e Moultons meadow and Southwesterly by Thomas Kimball & southEasterly by a ditch & half an acre more in said lords meadow bounded Eastwardly by y^e causeway & Moultons meadow & southwardly going on to y^e Island & westwardly bounding on Joseph Porters meadow & northwardly by y^e fence as it now standeth To Have & to hold to him y^e s^d William Fairfield and his hiers for Ever as his & thier own Right of Inheritance wth all & singular y^e priveledges & appurtenances thereunto belonging & in pticular y^e comon right granted to y^e s^d Killam by y^e town or commoners In town common priveledges & further y^e aboves^d Thomas Killam doth for himself his hiers Executors administrators and assignes covenant wth & promise to y^e aboves^d William ffairfield & his hiers executors adminis^{tr} y^t I am at y^e day & date hereof y^e rightfull owner and have in my own name good right full power & lawfull authority to alienate y^e above bounded & bargained pmisses & y^t they are free from all former bargains sales titles troubles rights of Dowry or Incumbrances whatsoever & y^t I do fully clearly alienate assign & set over all my right title & Intrest in y^e above mentioned housing orchard & twenty seven acres of land be it more or less wth all y^e stones wood timber trees & waters thereunto belonging & Ingadge and covenant further for my self my hiers executors & administrators to y^e s^d William ffairfield & his hiers Executors & administrators to warrant & defend y^e said ffairfield & his possessing occupying & Improving of y^e same from time to time & at all times for Ever hereafter from any persons laying lawfull & Just claim thereunto also the abovesaid Martha Killam to signifie her voluntary & free consent to y^e aboves^d bargain hath hereby sold assigned & sett over unto y^e s^d William Fairfield & his hiers Executors & administrators all her Right of Dowre or powre of thirds in y^e bargained pmisses for y^e true performance and confirmation of all y^t is above written we have hereunto sett our hands & seals this twenty second day of July in y^e year of our lord one thousand seven hundred & one 1701 & in y^e thirteenth year of his mag^{ties} Reign ~~~~~ memorandum y^e word ower in y^e twenty fifth line was interlined before y^e executing hereof

sign ^d seal ^d & DD	}	Ipswich January	{	
in presence of		15 th 1701/2 then		his
Samuel Fiske		Thomas Killam &	}	Thomas o Killam & a seale
William Fiske		Martha his wife		mark
his	}	psonally appeared	}	her
Joseph o Killam		& acknowledged y ^e		Martha M Killam & a seale
mark	}	aboves ^d Instrum ^t	}	mark
		to be thier act &		
		deed		
Examd [...] Sewell		Before me John Wainwright J peace		
Recor ^d				

WILLIAM FAIRFIELD TO JOSIAH FAIRFIELD, APRIL _ 1725
Two-Acre House Lot with Dwelling House⁹

William Fairfield To Josiah Fairfield Rec^d on Record December 13th, 1735

To All People to whom this present Deed of Gift Shall Come William Fairfield of Wenham in y^e County of Essex & province of y^e Massachusetts Bay in New England yeoman Sendeth Greeting Know ye that I y^e s^d William Fairfield for and and [sic] in Consideration of y^e parental Love and Affection which I bear unto My Loveing Son Josiah Fairfield of Wenham in y^e County and province Aboves^d Labourer and as a part of that portion of My Estate which I intend to Settle On him Have Given Granted Assigned and Sett Over and firmly Conveyed unto my s^d Son and his heirs forever a Certain piece or parcel of Land Containing About two Acres be it More or Less Situate lying and being in Wenham Afores^d and is that Lott his Dwelling house Now Stands On bounded Northerly by John Gotts Land and Westerly by Samuel Gotts Land and Southwesterly and Southeasterly by y^e other Land of y^e s^d W^m Fairfield as y^e fence Now Standeth that incloseth it together with y^e houseing fencing and fruit trees thereupon to him, y^e s^d Josiah Fairfield and his heirs To have & to Hold as a free and clear Estate of inheritance in fee forever & further I y^e s^d William Fairfield do Covenant with and promise to my s^d Son and his heirs Execrs Admrs and Assignes forever that y^e aboves^d two acre lott is free from and clear of all former Gifts Grants bargains Sales titles rights of dower or Encumbrance whatsoever and that it Shall and May be Lawful for him & them to use Occupy possess and Enjoy y^e Same forever hereafter without any Lawfull Lett Molestation, Suit or Demise from me or any other person from by or under me and In Confirmation of all above written I have hereunto Sett My hand and Seal this [blank] day of April in y^e year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and twenty five 1725

William Fairfield & a Seal

Signed Sealed & D^d in presence of

Mitchel Sewall John []ish

Salem May 19th, 1725 Then M^r William Fairfield the abovenamed [conveyor?] personally appearing acknowledged y^e foregoing instrument to be his Voluntary Act and deed with his hand and Seal thereto affixed to be his Voluntary Act and Deed

Coram Steph: Sewall Just peace

9 Essex County Deeds 70:75 (William Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1725). Notice that there is no mention of a barn in this deed. See Figure 3.18 (Chapter 3, Volume 2) for a map.

WILLIAM FAIRFIELD TO JOSIAH FAIRFIELD, FEBRUARY 13, 1737/8
 Thomas Kilham's Homestead and Adjoining Land & Part Interest in Six Additional Parcels¹⁰

Josiah Fairfeild from William Fairfeild Rec^d on Record Nov^r 6th 1739

To All People to whom this present Deed of Gift Shall Come William Fairfeild Sendeth Greeting. Know ye That I William Fairfeild of Wenham in y^e County of Essex and Province of Mass Bay in New England Yeoman for and in Consideration of y^e Parental Love & Affection which I bear unto my Loveing Son Josiah Fairfeild of Wenham in the County of Essex & Province abovesaid Husbandman & diverse other good causes me thereunto movinge Have Given Granted Aliented Assigned Enfeoffed & Conveyed and Confirmed unto the Said Josiah Fairfeild & his Heirs & Assignes forever The One fourth part of all the Homesteds & Lands in Wenham and Elsewhere That is to Say the one half of y^e Several peices & parcels he now Improves as divided with his Brother Benjamin to witt Thomas Killams Homested and y^e land I had out of the Common adjoining to that at the South corner and so Northeast bounding on the Stone wall from John Gotts house to the Gate near the Schoolhouse^[11] As also the half of the Wood Pasture bounding Westerly by a line from a Red oak tree marked in the middle of the the [*sic*] pasture between Dan^l Fisks land & Thomas Tarbox's & from the s^d Red Oak to a Rock Sett in the ground on y^e Ridge about the line between my Original Lott & That I Purchased of Sam^l Fisk^[12] 7 pole 11 feet & 8 inches Southeasterly from y^e Corner of the Wall that is y^e fence of y^e meadow & Orchard That I had of the s^d Fisk together with That of y^e lands That I had of the s^d Fisk Adjoyning Easterly bounding on Theophilus Fisks land Northerly on the Swamp fence & Westerly on y^e stonewall fencing y^e meadow Hill so Called and Southerly it bounds on the Orchard & meadow Wall partly & partly it bounds on y^e line parting between Said Josiah & Benjamin from the Corner of the meadow wall to the Stone on y^e Ridge hill abovesaid as Also That peice of meadow Adjoyning to y^e meadow hill as it Stands divided with Theophilus Fisk which I Purchased of Samuel Fisk The one half of abovementioned

10 Essex County Deeds 78:178 (William Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1738).

11 This stone wall seems to be the one between current-day 16 Maple Street and 2 Puritan Road, and not the wall along Topsfield Road.

12 Essex County Deeds 26:119 (Samuel Fiske to William Fairfield, 1713). Although the grantor of 26:119 referred to himself as "Samuel Fiske Jun^r," in the deed itself, he was actually Samuel Fiske (the weaver, 1670–after 1725), the son of William Fiske Jr. (1643–1728)—and was using the suffix "Jr." to distinguish himself from his uncle Samuel Fiske (the tailor, ca.1645–1716). For identification, note that the deed had the consent of Samuel's wife Elizabeth, and see Essex County Deeds 26:63 (William Fiske [Jr.] to Samuel Fiske, 1712). See also Frederick Clifton Pierce, *Fiske and Fisk Family* (Chicago: W. B. Conkey Company, 1896), 83.

Parcels of Land The other half I reserve in my own hand for to be disposed of hereafter As Also One Quarter part of all the other Lands & Swamp to me belonging namely The two meadow Lotts near Wenham Island so called The Great Lott of Swamp Adjoyning to my Homeland and the Lott Near Pleasant pond as also My Salt marsh in Ipswich All the abovementioned parcels of Land Meadow and Swamp described to be Conveyed as abovesaid That part of Each peice containing in y^e whole about forty five acres be y^e same more or less Together with all & Singular the Rights Profitts Woods Waters Watercourses Fencings Wayes and other Accommodations to Such part belonging or in any waye appertaining to be to him the Said Josiah Fairfield To Have and To Hold to him & his Heirs as a free & Clear Estate of Inheritance in fee forever hereby Avouching my self to be the Free & Rightfull owner of the above granted & Demised premises And That I have good Right full power and Lawfull Authority to Dispose of y^e Same as above and it is free of & fully discharged from all & all manner of former & other Gifts Sales Bargaines Titles Rights of Dowry or Incumbrances of what kind or nature soever And That It Shall and may be Lawfull for him the said Jos^h Fairfield & his Heirs Ex^{ts} Adm^{rs} and Assigns to use Occupy Possess & Enjoy the same forever hereafter without any Lawfull Lett Molestation Suit or Denial from me or any from by or under me or any other persons laying lawfull Claime thereunto or any part thereof Only I Reserve Sixteen pole [*sic*] of land for a burying place where my Family is buried out of this Conveyance and to be in Some Other Instrument bounded and disposed of And further I the s^d W^m Fairfield do covenant with and promise to y^e abovenamed Josiah Fairfield & his Heirs of his Body if any he leave That at my Decease He or they that are then Surviveing Shall have a Right to Redeem the Remaining part of every Several peice of my lands to witt the Other quarter part of Such as are undivided And the one half part of All Such Peices as are already divided with his Brother Benjamin as abovementioned he or they Paying The one half the Value therefor to pay any Debts if any I leave & Such Legacies as I Shall Order for my other Children and whatsoever I shall give him a receipt for as paid whilst I live Shall be as Earnest given of the bargain & his Security for So much of the s^d Land at One half the Value thereof but in case I Shall give him any further Security while I Survive & Sett the Price of y^e lands my self it shall Serve insted of y^e Latter part of this Instrument to Secure y^e last half of y^e land abovementioned And In Wittness of And for the Confirmation of all above-written I have hereunto Set my hand & Seal this Thirteenth day of February In y^e year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred Thirty Seven eight 1737/8

William Faierfeild & a Seal

Signed Sealed & D^d
In presence of us
Daniel Fiske
Benj^a Fiske

Essex SS Apr. 5th 1739 Then M^r W^m Faierfeild
Acknowledged the foregoing Instrument to be his
free act & Deed
Before me Edward Kitchen Just Peace

WILLIAM FAIRFIELD TO BENJAMIN FAIRFIELD, FEBRUARY 13, 1737/8
 William's Farm with Dwelling House, Barn, Pasture and Tillage & Part Interest in Five Additional Parcels¹³

William Fairfeild to Benjamin Fairfield Rec^d on Record January 12th 1742

To All Christian People to whom this present Deed of Gift shall come, William Fairfeild Sendeth Greeting. Know ye That I William Fairfield of Wenham in the County of Essex & Province of the Mass Bay in New England yeoman, For and in consideration of the Parental Love & Affection which I bear unto my Loveing Son Benj^a Fairfeild of Wenham in the County & Province abovesaid Husbandman and diverse other good causes me moving thereunto, Have Given, Granted Alienated Assigned Enfeoffed Conveyed & Confirmed unto the said Benjamin Fairfeild his Heirs & Assigns forever, The One Fourth part of all my Homested [*sic*] & Lands in Wenham or elsewhere That is to Say the one half of all the several parsels hereafter exprest as they stand divided with his Brother Josiah Fairfield & seperately possessed at this Day, To witt, My Dwelling House Barn & Land both Pasture & Tillage from the Stone Wall set from near John Gotts House by the Highway to the to the [*sic*] Gate across the Highway which parts Josiah & the said Benjamin, and all that Land untill it comes to the fence of y^e Wood Pasture set from below my burying place over across to Thomas Tarbox's Land & Northwesterly it bounds on y^e said Tarbox partly & partly on John Gotts Land, and Southeasterly it bounds on Daniel Fisks Land, as also Half the Wood Pasture divided with Josiah by a Line from a Red Oak Tree marked in the midst between Daniel Fisks Land & Thomas Tarbox's by y^e fence side to a stone set in the Line between my original Lott & that I purchased of Samuel Fisk on the Top of y^e Ridge Hill Seven Pole Eleven Feet Eight Inches Southward from the corner of the Orchard & Meadow Wall, purchased of Samuel Fisk, and from the said Stone Down to the corner of the said Orchard & Meadow Wall. And also that orchard and Swamp meadow the Seven acres called the Calves Pasture & y^e Meadow Hill so called as the said Lands are bounded on the Great Meadow fence Northwesterly & on the said Tarbox Westerly & Southerly & on Josiah Fairfeilds partly South and on the Swamp Lott Northeast as the Divisional Wall & fences stand, as also One Fourth part of my two meadow Lotts at Wenham Island, and one Fourth part of my Swamp Lotts and one Fourth part of my Salt Marsh in Ipswich. All the abovementioned parcels of Land Meadow & Swamp, that part of each peice as is above expressed containing about Forty Five acres in the whole be the same more or less together with all & singular the Rights Priviledges Profitts Woods Water Water Courses Fenceings Ways & other accomodations thereunto belonging or in any ways

13 Essex County Deeds 84:121 (William Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, 1738).

appertaining to him the said Benjamin Fairfield & his Heirs To Have And To Hold as a free & clear Estate of Inheritance in Fee forever, Hereby avouching my self to be the true & rightfull owner of the above granted & demised Premisses and that they are free of & fully acquitted from all & all manner & other Bargaines Sales Gifts Grants Titles Rights of Dowry or Incumbrances whatsoever, and that it shall & may be Lawfull for him the said Benjamin his Heirs Exec^{rs}: Adm^{rs}: & Assignes forever hereafter to Use Occupy Possess & Injoy the Same forever hereafter without any Lawfull Lett Molestation Suit or Denial from me or any from by or under me or any other Persons laying Lawfull Claime thereunto or any part thereof. And further I the Said William Fairfield Do Covenant with & Promise to the abovenamed Benj^a Fairfield & his Heirs of His Body begotten (if any he leave) That at my decease He or they that may be then surviving shall have the Right to redeem the other quarter part, The which I now reserve to myself in every several peice & parcel of Land mentioned as undivided with Josiah his Brother, and the other Half of all that is mentioned as divided he or they paying the one half of what it may be then valued at to pay Debts (if any I leave) and such Legacies as I shall order to my other Children & whatsoever I shall give him receipt for as paid to any such use during my Life shall be his security for so much of y^e Land as abovesaid as to pay him therefor at half the just value thereof. But in Case I shall set y^e Price of y^e remaining Half of my Lands my self while I survive & make further provision for y^e secureing y^e latter half of the Lands abovemenioned to my said Son Benjamin it shall be added to this Instrument as further security. And In Wittness of all abovewritten I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this Thirteenth Day of February in y^e year of our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred Thirty & seven eight 1737/8.

William Fairfield and a Seal

Signed Sealed & D^d
in presenece of us
John Moulton
John Batcheller

Essex SS Apr. 5th 1739 Then M^r W^m Fairfield acknowl-
edged the foregoing Instrument to be his free act &
Deed
Before me Edward Kitchen Just Peace

JOSIAH FAIRFIELD TO BENJAMIN FAIRFIELD, JANUARY 14, 1767

Forty-Six-Acre Farm with Dwelling House, Barn, and Other Buildings; Eight Additional Parcels & His Pew in the Meeting House¹⁴

Know all Men by these Presents that I Josiah Fairfield of Wenham in the County of Essex & Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Esq^r, in Consideration of Six Hundred pounds Lawful Money of New England to me in Hand paid by Benjamin Fairfield of Wenham in said County Yeoman Have given granted bargained & Sold and do by these Presents give grant bargain Sell convey and confirm unto him the said Benj^a Fairfield his Heirs and assigns forever Certain Tracts or Messuages of Lands lying in Wenham & Ipswich in said County Containing by Estimation about Eighty five acres be the more or Less bounded as follows vis: about Forty Six acres of upland in said Wenham bounded Northerly on Land of Benj^a Fairfield, Westerly [*sic*] & Northerly on Land belonging to the Heirs of John Gott Dec^d, Westerly on Land belonging to the Heirs of Daniel Gott Dec^d,^[15] Southerly & Westerly on Land of Josiah Herrick^[16] and Westerly on Land in Possession of Eben^r Porter,^[17] Southerly on Land of James Kimball,^[18] Easterly on Lands in Possession of Richard Friend,^[19]

14 Essex County Deeds 121:231 (Josiah Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, 1767).

15 See Boundary 1 in Figure C.1. The property owned by the heirs of Daniel Gott (1724–1758) is described in Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772).

16 See Boundary 2 in Figure C.1. Lot C was owned by the Herrick family by the 1740s and sold by Josiah Herrick to Matthew Fairfield in 1772, per Essex County Deeds 135:81 (Josiah Herrick to Matthew Fairfield, 1772). For its history, see Appendix B's discussion of the Thomas Trusler Farm, Subdivision B of the Herrick Lot, pages 159–161.

17 See Boundary 3 in Figure C.1. This property corresponds to the northern portion of the N. Porter Perkins Lot, a parcel that is addressed in Appendix B's discussion of the Thomas Trusler Farm, Subdivision A of the Herrick Lot, page 160.

18 See Boundary 4 in Figure C.1. Lot E is described in 135:82 (James Kimball [Jr.] to Matthew Fairfield, 1777). Property here had been owned by James Kimball Sr. (1696–1759), who bequeathed it to his sons Ephraim (1729–1779) and James Jr. (1733–1807); see Essex County Probate 15612 (James Kimball, 1759), Will and Inventory. James Sr. did not record his deed when he acquired this land, which suggests he may have acquired it from the town when the Lord's Hill Commons were sold off. Sons Ephraim and James Jr. recorded their disposition of James Sr.'s land in Essex County Deeds 106:226 (division of property between Ephraim and James [Jr.] Kimball, 1759).

19 See Boundary 5 in Figure C.1. Lot B is described in 135:79 (James Friend Jr. to Matthew Fairfield, 1769). The expression “in possession of Richard Friend” implies that although Richard was farming the land, he didn't own it. For its early history, see Essex County Probate 10209 (John Friend, 1718), “Division of Real Estate of John Friend Late of Wenham, Deceased,” 1738, and “Settlement of Estate of John Friend Late of Wenham, Dec'd,” 1763, third

Widow Eunice Porter^[20] & Mathew Fairfield^[21] to the Bound first Mentioned as the fence now stand [*sic*] with the Dwelling House Barn & Out Houses now standing on the Premises also about Seven acres of upland more lying in said Wenham bounded Southerly on Land of John Friend SouthEasterly on Land of James Friend Easterly Northerly & Westerly on Land of Benjamin Fairfield to the Bound first Mentioned also about two Acres of Meadow in said Wenham bounded Southerly on Land of Benjamin Fairfield NorthEasterly on Land of Eben^r Fisk Westerly on Land of Theo^v Fisk & Southwesterly on Land of Eben^r Fisk to the Bound first Mentioned also five Lots in Wenham Great Swamp so called Containing about Twenty five acres be they more or Less First Lot lying in the Ninth Eighth so called bounded Southerly and Easterly on Land of Benj^a Fairfield Northerly on the Eighth Eight so called & Westerly on Land of Theo^v Fisk to the Bound first Mentioned also Another Lot lying in said Eighth bounded Southerly on Land of James Friend Easterly on Land of Benj^a Fairfield Northerly on the said Eighth Eight and Westerly on Land of Benj^a Fairfield to the bound first Mentioned also Another Lot in said Eight Bounded Southerly on Land of Tho^v Fiske & Josiah Over Easterly on the Highway Northerly on Land of Benj^a Fairfields to a stake and stones Easterly on Benj^a Fairfields to a

Continued on p. 214

division; 10206 (James Friend, 1773), Will and Inventory; and 10222 (Richard Friend, 1788), Inventory.

20 See Boundary 6 in Figure C.1; see also Figure 1.30 and footnote 137 in Chapter 1. Essex County Deeds 116:175 (John Porter [Jr.] to George Dodge, 1763), first parcel, says that the abutting properties to the west belonged to Josiah Fairfield, James Kimball and Josiah Herrick, and the abutting properties to the south belonged to Benjamin Meacham and Ephraim Kimball. This begs the question when Josiah Fairfield acquired the abutting properties—but unfortunately, Fairfield didn't record these deeds.

21 See Boundary 7 in Figure C.1. Lot A was a seven-acre, 27-pole lot anchored on Porter's Road that had 20 rods' frontage on proto-Maple Street. For its history, see Essex County Deeds 90:153 (Josiah Fairfield to Daniel Porter, 1747); 114:223 (George Dodge to [Dr.] William Fairfield, 1763), second parcel; 117:126 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to Matthew and [Dr.] Josiah Fairfield Jr., 1765); 145:82 (Stephen Dutch to Samuel Adams, 1786), second parcel; 146:8 (Stephen Dutch vs. Matthew Fairfield, 1785), third parcel, a transcription of which is in Appendix C; 149:92 (Stephen Dutch and Samuel Adams to Billy Porter, 1787), second parcel; 153:243 (Billy Porter to [Dr.] Josiah Fairfield [Jr.], 1788), second parcel; 155:11 (Billy Porter and Matthew Fairfield to Dr. Josiah Fairfield [Jr.], 1787), fourth parcel; 164:76 (Priscilla Fairfield to [Dr.] William Fairfield, 1797); 164:76 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to John Baker, 1798); and 166:230 (John Baker [Jr.] to Benjamin Potter, 1800).

A 1779 description of some of the fencing enclosing this lot, recording the division of the fencing's maintenance between Matthew Fairfield and Capt. George Crowninshield Sr. (1734–1815), is recorded in Town of Wenham, *Wenham Town Records, 1776–1810* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1959), 34.

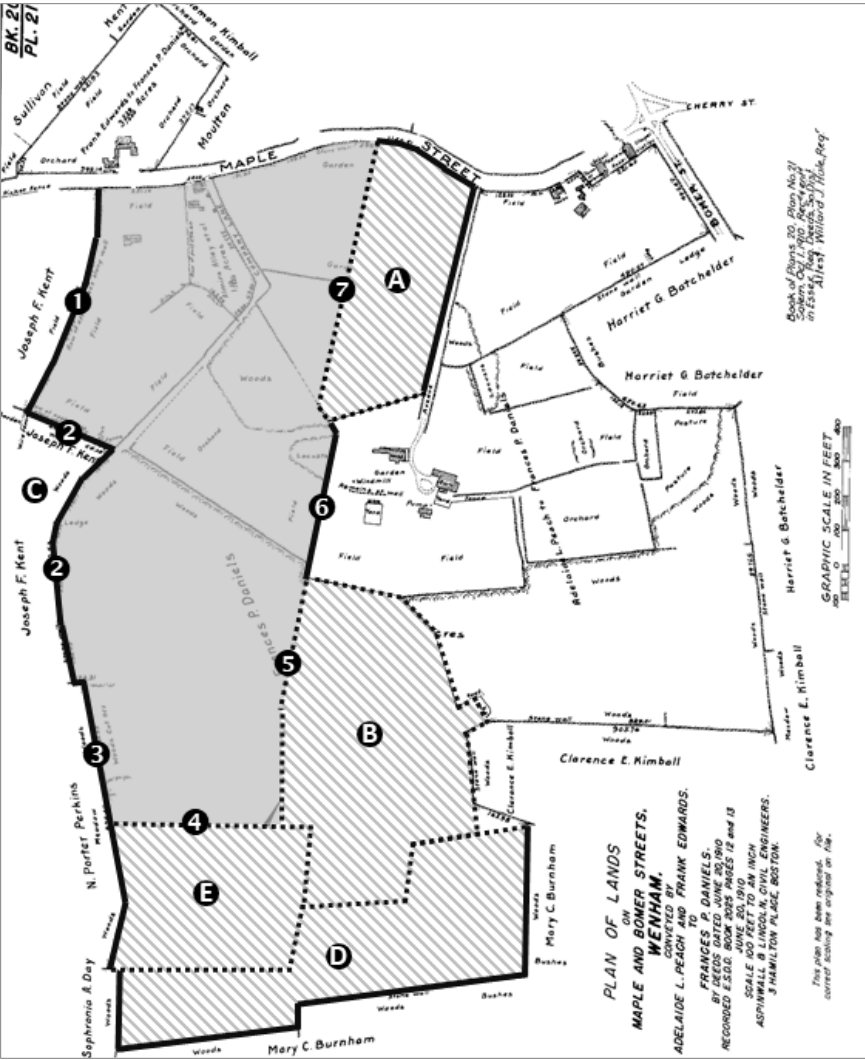


Figure C.1. The portion of the Josiah Fairfield Farm south of proto-Maple Street, 1767, and adjacent lots owned by Matthew Fairfield.²²

Adjacent Lots Owned by Matthew Fairfield

- A. To Matthew Fairfield and Josiah Fairfield Jr. from Dr. William Fairfield, 1765
- B. To Matthew Fairfield from James Friend Jr., 1769
- C. To Matthew Fairfield from Josiah Herrick, 1772
- D. To Matthew Fairfield from John Friend, 1777
- E. To Matthew Fairfield from James Kimball, 1777

²² Essex County Deeds Plan 20:21 (“Plan of Lands on Maple and Bomer Streets, Wenham,” 1910); shading added. Solid-line boundaries represent high conviction, while dotted-line boundaries are conjectural. The southern boundary of Lot B was the same as the northern boundary for the properties at current-day 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 Hilltop Drive.

For Matthew Fairfield’s abutting lots, see Essex County Deeds 117:126 ([Dr.] William Fairfield to Matthew and [Dr.] Josiah Fairfield Jr., 1765); 135:79 (James Friend Jr. to Matthew Fairfield, 1769); 135:81 (Josiah Herrick to Matthew Fairfield, 1772); 135:81 (John Friend to Matthew Fairfield, 1777); and 135:82 (James Kimball [Jr.] to Matthew Fairfield, 1777).

stake Northerly on the said Eight Eighth and on Land of Benj^a Fairfields to the Bound first Mentioned also a Lot on hemlock Island so called Bounded South-erly on Land of Benj^a Fairfields Easterly on Land of Edmund Kimball Northerly on Land of the Widow Russels and Westerly on Land of Abraham Kimballs to the Bound first Mentioned also the one half of a Small Lot both for Quantity & Quality lying near the Springs in said Swamp the other half belonging to the abovesaid Benj^a Fairfield bounded Easterly on Land of the Widow Russels & others Northerly on Land of Jonathan Kimball and others Westerly on Land of Tho^s Perkins and others to the Bound first Mentioned also the one half of a piece of Salt Marsh lying in Ipswich in said County bounded as by Deed may appear on Record from Jacob Perkins to William Fairfield the other half of said Marsh belonging already to the abovesaid Benj^a Fairfield likewise my Pew in Wenham Meeting House To Have and to Hold the abovesaid granted and bargained Premises with the appurtenances free from all Incombrances to him the said Benj^a Fairfield his Heirs and Assigns as an Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple forever and I the said Josiah Fairfield for myself my Heirs Executors and Administrators do Covenant to and with the said Benj^a Fairfield his Heirs Ex-ecutors Administrators and Assigns that I am Lawfully Seized and Possessed of the Premises aforesaid and that I will warrant and defend them against the Law-ful Claim and Demand of all Persons whatsoever also Elizabeth the wife of said Josiah Fairfield does hereby freely Surrender her Right of Dower in the above Premises In Witness whereof we have set to our Hands and Seals this Four-teenth Day of Jan^y. ADom 1767 in the Seventh year of his Majestys Reign

Signed Sealed and Del ^d	}	Josiah Fairfield & a Seal
by s ^d Josiah & Elizabeth		Elizabeth Fairfield & a Seal
in presence of us	}	Essex SS. Danvers Jan ^y 17 th 1767 Josiah Fair-
William Fairfield		field Esq ^r Personally appeared and Acknowl-
Jacob Dodge	}	edged the above written Instrument to be his
		free Act and Deed
		Before me Benj ^a Prescott J. Peace
Essex SS. Rec ^d on Record Jan ^y 17 th 1767 and Entered by John Higginson late		
Reg ^r . Exam ^d Dec ^r . 24, 1774 by Tim. Pickering jr Reg ^r .		

BENJAMIN FAIRFIELD TO JOSIAH FAIRFIELD, AUGUST 10, 1767

Forty-Six-Acre Farm with Dwelling House, Barn, and Other Buildings & Six Additional Parcels²³

Know all Men by these Presents that I Benjamin Fairfield of Wenham in the County of Essex and Province of the Mass^a Bay in New England Yeoman in consideration of Five hundred and fifty pound [*sic*] Lawful Money of New England to me in hand paid by Josiah Fairfield of Wenham in said County Esq^r have given granted bargained and Sold and do by these presents give grant bargain Sell convey and confirm unto him the said Josiah Fairfield his heirs and Assigns forever Certain Tracts or Messuages of Land in said Wenham containing by Estimation about Seventy five Acres be they more or less bounded as follows vis Imprimis about Forty Six Acres of Land bound Northerly on Land Originally my own Westerly [*sic*] and Northerly on Land belonging to the Heirs of John Gott Deceased Westerly on land belonging to the Heirs of Daniell Gott Deceased Southerly & Westerly on land of Josiah Herricks Westerly on land in Possession of Haffield [Haffield] White^[24] Southerly on Land of James Kimball Easterly on Land in Possession of James Friend jun.^[25] widow Eunice Porter & Matthew Fairfield to the bound first mentioned with the Dwelling House Barn and Out Houses Standing on the above premises also about two Acres of Meadow lying back of Meadow hill so called in Wenham Great meadows bounded Southerly on said Hill Northerly on Land of Ebenezer Fisk Westerly on Land of Theophilus Fisks Southwerly [*sic*] on land of said Ebenezer Fisks to the bound first mentioned also Five lotts lying in Wenham Great Swamp so called containing about twenty five Acres first lott lying in the Ninth eight so called bounded Southwesterly and Southeasterly on land originally my own Northerly on the Eight Eighth so called and Westerly on land of Theophilus Fisk to the bound first mentioned also another lott in s^d Eight bounded Southerly on land in Possession of John Friend Easterly on Land Originally my own Northerly on the said Eight Eighth and Westerly on land Originally my own to the bound first mentioned also another Lot in said Eight bounded Southerly on land of Tho^s Fisks and Josiah Over [*sic*] Easterly on the highway Northerly on Land Originally my own to a Stake and Stones and Easterly on Land Originally my own to a Stake Northerly on the Eight Eighth and then Westerly on Land Originally my own to the bound first mentioned also a Lott at Hemlock Island so

23 Essex County Deeds 126:217 (Benjamin Fairfield to Josiah Fairfield, 1767).

24 Notice the phrase “in possession of.” The abutting land in possession of Haffield White was owned by Ebenezer Porter, per Essex County Deeds 110:264 (Isaac Dodge to Ebenezer Porter, 1763). In other words, White was a tenant of Porter.

25 This lot was described as being in the possession of Richard Friend in Essex County Deeds 121:231 (Josiah Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, 1767).

called bounded Southerly on land originally my own Easterly on land of Edmund Kimball Northerly on land of the Widow Russel and then Westerly on land of Abraham Kimballs to the bound first mentioned and also the one half of another Lot lying near the Springs in said Swamp both for Quantity & Quality bounded Easterly on Land of the widow Russell and others Northerly on land of Jonathan Kimball and others Westerly on land of Tho^s Perkins and others to the bound first mentioned To have and to hold the abovesaid Granted & bargained premises with the Appurtenances thereunto belonging free from all Incumbrances to him the said Josiah Fairfield his Heirs and Assigns as an Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple forever And I the said Benjamin Fairfield for my Self my Heirs Executors and Administrators do Covenant to and with the said Josiah Fairfield his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns that I am Lawfully Seized and Possessed of the premises aforesaid and that I will warrant and Defend the same against the Lawful claim and Demand of all Persons whatsoever also Martha the wife of said Benjamin Fairfield does hereby freely Surrender her right of Dower in the above Premises In Witness whereof we have Set to our hands and Seals this Tenth Day of August A Domini 1767 in the Seventh Year of his Majesty

Reign

Signed Sealed & Del^d. By

s^d Benj^a & Martha

In presence of us

Matthew Fairfield

Samuel Fairfield

Benj^a Fairfield & a Seal

Martha Fairfield & a Seal

Essex SS. Wenham July 12th 1768. M^r Benjamin

Fairfield and Martha his wife Personally Appearing

Severally Acknowledged this Instrument to be their

Act and Deed

Before me William Story Justice of Peace

Essex SS. Rec^d on Record June 24th 1769 & entered & exam^d

By John Higginson Reg^r

JOSIAH FAIRFIELD TO BENJAMIN FAIRFIELD, MORTGAGE, AUGUST 10, 1767

Forty-Acre Lot (on the South Side of Current-Day Maple Street) with Barn²⁶

Know all Men by these Presents that I Josiah Fairfield of Wenham in the County of Essex and Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Esq^r. with the Consent of Elisabeth my wife as a Collateral Security for the payment of a Sum of Money which shall become due by my Bond hereinafter mentioned and also for and in consideration of the Sum of Ten Shillings Lawful Money of New

26 Essex County Deeds 125:143 (Josiah Fairfield to Benjamin Fairfield, mortgage, 1767).

England to me in hand paid by Benjamin Fairfield of said Wenham yeoman (to whom I have given said Bond) have given granted bargained and Sold and do by these Presents give grant bargain Sell convey and confirm to him the said Benjamin Fairfield his heirs and Assigns forever about forty Acres of Land be the same more or less lying and being in said Wenham being all my Lands to the Southward of the highway that leads to Danvers bounded as follows Viz. Northerly on said Highway Westerly on land belonging to the Heirs of Daniel Gott Deceased Southerly and Westerly on land of Josiah Herricks and Westerly on land in possession of Haffield White Southerly on land of James Kimballs and Easterly on lands in possession of James Friend jun^r. widow Eunice Porter and Matthew Fairfield to the highway first mentioned with the Barn now Standing on the premises To have and to hold said Granted and bargained premises with the appurtenances free from all Incumbrances to him the said Benjamin Fairfield his Heirs and Assigns as an Estate of Inheritance in fee simple forever And I the said Josiah Fairfield for my Self my heirs Executors and Administrators do Covenant to and with the said Benjamin Fairfield his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns that I am Lawfully Seized and Possessed of the premises aforesaid and that I will warrant and defend the same against the Lawful claim & Demand of all Persons whatsoever and Elisabeth my said wife for said consideration and purposes and for five Shillings paid to her doth Grant and Release her Dower and right in said Granted premises to the said Benjamin Fairfield and to his heirs and Assigns to hold to him and them Provided Nevertheless If I the said Josiah Fairfield or my heirs Executors or Administrators Shall pay to the said Benjamin Fairfield or to his Executors Administrators or Assigns the Sum of one hundred and Seventy Five pounds four Shillings Lawful money with Lawful Interest for the same on or before the Twentieth day of January Next according to the condition & in discharge of the Bond aforesaid being a Bond dated this Day of y^e penal Sum of Three hundred and fifty one pound Lawful Money of New England by me made and given to the said Benjamin Fairfield then as well this Deed as the same Bond to be Void and of none Effect but otherwise to remain and be in full force In Witness whereof I the said Josiah Fairfield and Elisabeth my said wife do hereto put our hands and Seals the Tenth Day of August ADom 1767

Signed Sealed & Del^d.

Josiah Fairfield & a Seal

Elisabeth Fairfield & a Seal

in presence of us

William Fairfield

Mathew Fairfield

Essex SS Wenham July 12th 1768. Josiah Fairfield

Esq^r. personally appearing acknowledged this Instrument to be his Act and Deed

Before me Will^m. Story Justice of Peace

Essex SS Rec^d on Record July 21st 1768 & entered & exam^d.

by John Higginson Reg^r.

JOSIAH FAIRFIELD TO MATTHEW FAIRFIELD, JANUARY 31, 1771
Back Part of Dwelling House; Half of a Cider House & Half of a Cider Mill
Near the Dwelling House²⁷

To all people to whom this present deed of gift shall come Josiah Fairfield sendeth greeting know ye that I Josiah Fairfield of Wenham in the county of Essex and province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England esquire for and in consideration of the parental love and affection which I bear unto my loving son Matthew Fairfield of Wenham in the county and province abovesaid yeoman and divers other good causes me thereunto moving, have given granted alienated assigned conveyed and confirmed unto the said Matthew Fairfield & his heirs & assigns forever the back part of my dwelling house with the cellar under it and the entry that is between that back house & my dwelling house with all the appurtenances thereto belonging as part of his portion out of my estate with a convenient way of passing & repassing to and from the said house with the one half of my right in my cider house and cider mill near my dwelling house all situate in Wenham as aforesaid to him the said Matthew Fairfield and his heirs & assigns forever as a free and clear estate of inheritance in fee forever and further I the said Josiah Fairfield do covenant with and promise to my said son & his heirs administrators & assigns that the above granted and demised premises are free from all former gifts grants & bargains and rights of dower or incumbrances whatsoever and that it shall and may be lawful for him & them to use occupy possess & enjoy the same forever hereafter without any molestation or lawful claim from any person from or under me and in confirmation of all above written I have hereunto set my hand & seal this thirty first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy one.

		Josiah Fairfield & a seal
Signed sealed and delivered in presence of witnesses	}	Essex SS. Ipswich March 20, 1770[/1]. Josiah Fairfield Esq ^r . personally appearing acknowledged the within instrument to be his deed
Moses Titcomb		Before Willm. Story J. Pac.
John Gott		

Essex SS. Rec^d May 28, 1777 & recorded & exam^d by Tim Pickering jun. reg^r

27 Essex County Deeds 135:80 (Josiah Fairfield to Matthew Fairfield, 1771), second deed.

JOSIAH FAIRFIELD TO MATTHEW FAIRFIELD, MARCH 14, 1777
 Nine-Acre Barn Lot with West Half of Barn²⁸

To all People to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.
 Know Ye, That I Josiah Fairfield Esqr of Wenham in the county of Essex & state of Massachusetts Bay, New England, do For and in Consideration of the Sum of sixty pounds to me in Hand before the Ensealing hereof, well and truly paid by Matthew Fairfield of said Wenham gentleman the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and myself therewith fully satisfied and contented; and thereof and of every Part and Parcel thereof, do exonerate, acquit and discharge to the said Matthew Fairfield [his] Heirs, Executors and Administrators, forever by these Presents: HAVE given, granted, bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and confirmed; and by these Presents, Do freely, fully and absolutely give, grant, bargain, sell, aliene, convey and confirm, unto him the said Matthew his Heirs and Assigns forever, a certain piece of land in said Wenham bounded as followeth viz. northerly & westerly on the highway southerly on land of Lydia Goot [sic], easterly on said Matthew Fairfield's land northerly on a straight line to the bound first mentioned consisting of nine acres by measure together with the west half of my barn, & free liberty of passing & repassing to and from the same. To have and to hold the said granted and bargained Premises, with all the Appurtenances, Privileges and Commodities to the same belonging, or in any wise appertaining to the said Matthew Fairfield his Heirs and Assigns forever. To him and his only proper Use, Benefit and Behoof forever. And I the said Josiah do for myself, Heirs, Executors and Administrators, do Covenant, Promise and Grant to and with the said Matthew his Heirs and Assigns, that before the Ensealing hereof, I am the true, sole and lawful Owner of the above-bargained Premises, and I am lawfully seized and possessed of the same in my own proper Right, as a good, perfect and absolute Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple: And have in a good Right, full Power and lawful Authority, to grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm said bargained Premises in Manner as aforesaid: And that I will warrant and defend the same to ----- Heirs and Assigns, shall and may from Time to Time, and at all Times forever hereafter, by Force and Virtue of these Presents, lawfully, peaceably and quietly Have, Hold, Use, Occupy, Possess and Enjoy the said demised and bargained Premises, with the Appurtenances, free and clear, and freely and clearly acquitted, exonerated and discharged of, from all and all Manner of former or other Gifts, Grants, Bargains, Sales, Leases, Mortgages, Wills, Entails, Jointures, Dowries, Judgments, Executions, or Incumbrances of what Name or Nature soever [sic], that might in any Measure or Degree obstruct or make Void this present Deed.

28 Essex County Deeds 123:267 (Josiah Fairfield to Matthew Fairfield, 1777).

Furthermore, I do for myself & my Heirs, Executors and Administrators, do Covenant and Engage the above-demised Premises to the said Matthew Fairfield his Heirs and Assigns against the lawful Claims or Demands of any Person or Persons whatsoever, forever hereafter to Warrant, Secure and Defend by these Presents. Signed sealed & delivered this fourteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy seven,
in presence of us

William Gallop		Essex SS. Ipswich March 27. 1777. Then Josiah Fairfield & a seal
David Harris		Esq ^r acknowledged this instrument to be his free act and deed

Before John Baker J^s P^c

Essex SS. Rec^d May 28. 1777. & recorded & exam^d by Tim. Pickering junr. Reg^r

ELIZABETH FAIRFIELD WRIT OF DOWER, JULY 18, 1783²⁹

Essex SS. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts To the respective sheriffs of over county of York & Essex their undersheriffs or Deputys Greeting Whereas Elizabeth Fairfield of Wenham in the County of Essex widow who was the wife of Josiah Fairfield late of Wenham aforesaid Esq^r deceased before our Justices of our Court of Common Pleas holden at Salem within & for our county aforesaid on the eight [*sic*] day of July current did recover her seisin against Matthew Fairfield of Wenham aforesaid Gentleman & Josiah Fairfield of Pepperellborough in the county of York Physician of one third Part of a Certain Messuage & tenement of about Six acres of land bounded Northerly & westerly on land of Francis Porter Southerly on land of Moses Titcomb Southeasterly on the highway also of four lots of land laying in Wenham Swamp so called in the ninth eights so called & containing about twenty four acres which lots formerly belonged to William Fairfield late of Wenham aforesaid deceased father to said Josiah Fairfield Esq^r deceased all which Messuages & lots layin [*sic*] Wenham aforesaid also of a Messuage & tenement in Manchester in Said county bounded at the Southwest corner by the highway leading to Gloucester [*sic*] thence about Northeast by Jonathan Browns land to the corner of the Wall thence Easterly by s^d Browns land about four poles to the corner of the wall adjoining on Ebenezer Lee's land thence by said Lees land about Southwest till it comes to the highway thence by the highway about four poles to the bounds first mentioned containing about half an acre be the same more or Less with the appurtenances Situate in Wenham & Manchester as aforesaid in the possession of the

29 Essex County Deeds 141:123 (Elizabeth Fairfield *vs.* Matthew Fairfield *et al.*, writ of dower, 1783). See Figure 3.28 (Chapter 3, Volume 2) for a map.

Abutter Francis Porter (1748–after 1801) married Martha Gott (bp.1753–by 1784), daughter of John Gott Jr. (*ca.*1694–1761), in 1772. By the time of this 1783 writ of dower, Porter and his wife had come to own much of the John Gott Jr. Farm to the north of the former Josiah Fairfield Farm and the site of the Thomas Kilham House.

Abutter Moses Titcomb (? –after 1785) married Elizabeth Gott (1749–after 1785), daughter of Daniel and Mary (Rogers) Gott, in 1768. By the time of this 1783 writ of dower, Titcomb and his wife had come to own the part of the Daniel Gott Farm to the west/southwest of the former Josiah Fairfield Farm. See Essex County Deeds 140:237 (Moses and Elizabeth Titcomb to Nathan Wood, 1770), 143:100 (Benjamin Titcomb to Moses Titcomb, 1784), 143:100 (Moses Titcomb to John Friend, 1784), 149:56 (Moses Titcomb to Joseph Fairfield, mortgage, 1785), and 149:227 (Amos Putnam to Moses Titcomb, 1785); Essex County Probate 11323 (Daniel Gott, 1758), Division of Estate (1772); Essex County Probate 11343 (Samuel Gott *et al.*, guardianship, 1760); Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Wenham, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1904), 41; and Essex Institute, *Vital Records of Danvers, Massachusetts, To the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, 1910), 2:119, 292.

said Elizabeth as her Dower of the Endowment of the said Josiah Fairfield her Certain husband by our Writ of dower whereof she hath nothing Therefore we Command you that to the said Elizabeth full seisin of one third Part of the aforesaid Messuages or tenements with the appurtenances you cause to be had without delay to hold to her in severalty by meets & bounds. We command you also That of the Goods or Chattles of the Said Matthew Fairfield & Josiah Fairfield within your Precinct you cause to be paid & Satisfied unto the Said Elizabeth at the value thereof in money the Sum of two pounds, thirteen Shillings & two pence for costs expended on this suit with three shillings more for this writ & thereof also to Satisfy yourself your own fees and for want of goods or chattels of the said Matthew & Josiah to be by them shewn unto you or found within your Precinct to Satisfy the same we command you to take their bodys & commit them to the Keeper of our Goal in York Salem Ipswich or Newbury Port in our county of York & Essex aforesaid within the Said Prisons whom we likewise Command to receive the said Matthew & Josiah & them Safely keep until they pay unto the said Elizabeth the full Sum above mentioned & also Satisfy your fees Hereof fail not & make return of this Writ & how you Shall have executed the same to our Next Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Newburyport for our Said county of Essex on the thirtieth day of September next Witness Benjamin Greenleaf Esquire at Salem this Eighteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred & eighty three.

Isaac Osgood Cler

Essex SS. August 5th 1783 Mess^r Deaⁿ John Friend, Josiah Ober, Moses Titcomb, Corneilus [*viz*] Baker & De[acon?] Caleb Kimball of Wenham were Sworn to the faithful Discharge of their duty in setting off the dower of the wid^o Elizabeth Fairfield, before me Tyler Porter Just Peace

We the Subscribers being appointed & sworn to set off to the widow Elizabeth Fairfield one third part of the real estate of Josiah Fairfield Esq^r late of Wenham deceased have met & proceeded as follows viz First we assigned & sett off the Dwelling house of Said Josiah Fairfield Esq^r deceased in Wenham & the appurtenances also the land under & adjoining to said house bounded as follows viz beginning at the highway westerly on land of the heirs of Daniel Gott deceased Northerly & Easterly on Land of Francis Porter Southerly on the highway to the bounds first mentioned Also a Small piece of land bounded as follows viz Westerly on land of Said Porter Northerly on land of Benjamin Fairfield Southerly on the highway to the bounds first mentioned the whole containing about Six acres be the same more or less Also a wood lot in Wenham Swamp so called Containing about four acres bounded as follows viz Southerly on land of Josiah Obers Easterly on the highway Northerly & Westerly on land of Benjamin Fairfields Also a lot containing about three acres bounded as follows viz Southerly & Easterly on land of Thomas Fisk & the lot first mentioned Northerly on land of Richard Friend westerly on land of Benjamin Fairfield to the bounds first

mentioned the premises being one third part of the Messuages Lands & Tenements mentioned in the within writ of Seizen whereof Dower is demanded & are all Situate & lying in Wenham in the County of Essex

Aug st 5 th .1783	}	John Friend
Essex SS. August 5 th . 1783 Received Possession and		Josiah Ober
Seizen of the above Described Lands & Messuage	}	Moses Titcomb
&c of William Dodge her		Cornelius Baker
Elizabeth X Fairfield)	Caleb Kimball
mark		

Essex SS. August 5. 1783 I have caused the said Elizabeth Fairfield Dower or third part of [...] the Messuage Lands & tenements & apurtenances mentioned in the within writ to be set forth unto her by five freeholders of the Neighbourhood to wit of Wenham aforesaid who were first Sworn before Tyler Porter Esq^r one of the Justices of the Peace in & for said County to be set forth the same Equally & impartially without favour or affection as convenient as might be all which appears by the foregoing writing & I have given Seizen of the said one third part being the Messuage Lands Tenements & appurtenances above described by the said five Freeholders to the said Elizabeth & have received the costs mentioned in the within Writ with my fees & all Charges Excepting two Pounds Eleven shillings of the Costs Within mentioned and so I return this Execution satesfyed in all the other Parts as apears [*sic*] by the
 Elizabeth Fairfield, Rec William Dodge undersheriff
 Essex SS. Rec^d Oct^r 30. 1783 & recorded & exam^d by John Pickering Reg^r

STEPHEN DUTCH VS. MATTHEW FAIRFIELD, NOVEMBER 28, 1785³⁰

Essex SS Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To the Sheriff of our County of Essex or his Deputy Greeting Whereas Stephen Dutch of Ipswich in the County of Essex Shopkeeper By the consideration of our Justices of our Supreme Judicial Court holden at Salem within & for our County of Essex on the first Tuesday of November Current received Judgment against Mathew Fairfield of Wenham in s^d. County gent^r for the sum of One hundred & four pounds & six shillings lawful money damage & fifty eight pounds twelve shillings & four pence Cost of suit as to us appears of Record whereof execution remains to be done We command you therefore that of the goods chattles or lands of the said Mathew within your precinct you cause to be paid & satisfied unto the said Stephen at the Values thereof in money the aforesaid sums being one hundred &

30 Essex County Deeds 146:8 (Stephen Dutch vs. Matthew Fairfield, 1785).

sixty two pounds eighteen shillings & four pence in the whole with two shillings & eight pence morfor this writ & Duty & thereof also to satisfy yourself for your own fees & for want of goods chattles or lands of the said Matthew to be by him shown unto you or found within your precinct to the acceptance of the said Stephen to satisfy the sums aforesaid we command you to take the Body of the said Matthew & him commit unto either or our goals in Salem Ipswich or Newbury Port in our County of Essex aforesaid & detain in your custody within our said goal until he pay the just sums above mentioned with your fees or that he be discharged by the said Stephen the Creditor or otherwise by order of Law hereof fail not & make return of this writ with your doings therein into our said Supreme Judicial Court to be holden at Ipswich within & for our county of Essex on the third Tuesday of June next Witness William Cushing Esq^r. at Boston the twenty eighth day of Nov^r in the year of our Lord 1785.

Essex SS Commonwealth of Massachusetts } Cha^s Cushing cler

Decb^r 13. 1785 personally appeared before me T. Porter Esqr. [...] Paletiah Brown, Daniel Herrick & Stephen Dodge being appointed a committee to appraise the estate of Matthew Fairfield within named sett off by meets & bounds so much as to satisfy the within execution & all costs were Sworn to the faithfull discharge of their trust.

Coram—Tyler Porter Justice Peace

We the Subscribers being a committee appointed & Sworn to sett of [*siz*] by meets & bounds so much of the estate of Matthew Fairfield as was shown to us to satisfy this execution & cost have atten^d. that sarvice [*siz*] & sett off as followeth, viz a certain tract of land in said Wenham containing 20 acres & 106 poles at £4- p^r. acre--£82.13.0 bounded westerly on Benjⁿ Fairfield northerly on s^d. Fairfield & Andrew Dodge easterly on s^d. Dodge southerly on Benjⁿ Fairfield & the burying yard^[31] Also another tract containing 9 acres and 120 poles at 6£ p^r. acre £58.10.0 bounded easterly on land that was owned by Josiah Fairfield esq^r 28 poles southerly on George Crowningsheild westerly s^d. crowning^d. & Moses Titcomb northerly on said Fairfield Esq^r. that was formerly owned by him 35 poles Also another tract of land Containing 7 acres & 27 poles that is the one half of said lot as it layes in Common with Doc^r Josiah Fairfield & undivided at 5£10 p^r acre £19.14.3 bounded easterly on the way leading to Porter's farm so called southerly on George Crowningsheild westerly on land that was formerly owned by Josiah Fairfield Esq^r dec^d northerly on the highway all the above mentioned land laying in the Township of Wenham the above described

31 The Fairfield Burying Ground, William Fairfield Drive, Wenham.

land being in part to Satisfie the within execution all which we appraise at the sum of £160.17.3 with all the appurtenances & priviledges thereto belonging or any ways appertaining—

Essex Dec ^r . 13 th . 1785 Rec ^d . of Wil-	}		
liam Dodge Deputy Sheriff seizing		Paltiah Brown	} Committee
& possession of the above de-		Daniel Herrick	
scribed premises in part for Satis-		Stephen	
faction of the within Execution &		Dodge	
Costs thereon	}		

Joseph Swasey Attorney to said Dutch

Essex SS Dec^r. 13th 1785 I have caused three persons being freeholders in said county to be appointed & sworn viz. Pelatiah Brown by Joseph Swasey Esq^r. attorney to the within named Dutch Daniel Herrick & Stephen Dodge chosen by myself, the within named Fairfield declined making choice of anyone & they have set off the above described premises which they appraised at one hundred & sixty pounds seventeen shillings & 3^d. which is one hundred & fifty six pounds 7/3 over & above the cost of survaing [*sic*] setting of [*sic*] & appraising s^d. premises & my fees, which is in part for Satisfaction of the within execution & Costs & I have delivered Seizen & possession of the above described premises to Joseph Swasey Esq^r. Attorney to s^d. Dutch as appears by his receipt so I returne this execution in part satisfied.

William Dodge Dep^t. Sheriff

Essex SS Rec^d. March 9. 1786. & recorded & exam^d. By John Pickering Reg^r

MATTHEW FAIRFIELD TO DR. JOSIAH FAIRFIELD JR., OCTOBER 1, 1788
Multiple Parcels, Including Two-Fifths of the Properties Inherited from Josiah Fairfield, and the Northerly Part of Josiah Fairfield's House³²

A single document that should have been *at least* two separate deeds, the first portion conveys Elizabeth Fairfield's interest in her late husband Josiah Sr.'s estate, while the second portion conveys Matthew Fairfield's properties. Elizabeth's interest, which was subject to her life tenancy, consisted of two-fifths of the house, two-fifths of the six-acre house lot, two-fifths of a ten-acre swamp lot, and two-fifths of a two-acre meadow lot. Matthew's properties consisted of a nine-acre lot abutting the south side of proto-Maple Street, the northern part of the house, a ten-acre meadow lot, and a three-acre meadow lot.

Know all Men by these presents that I Mathew Fairfield of New Boston in the County of Hillsborough & state of New Hampshire gentleman For & in consideration of the sum of twenty six pounds eight shillings £my^[33] to me in hand before the delivery hereof well & truly paid by Josiah Fairfield of Pepperillborough in the County of York & Commonwealth of Massachusetts physician the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge have given granted bargained sold and by these presents do give grant bargain sell aliene enfeoff convey & confirm unto the s^d Josiah Fairfield his heirs & assigns forever Two fifths of a Mansion house together with two fifths of certain pieces of land hereafter mentioned lying in Wenham bounded as follows vis one piece containing about six acres bounded as follows southerly on the highway westerly on Daniel Gotts heirs northerly on Thomas Kimballs land & Joseph Fairfields land to the bound first mentioned—one piece of swamp land bounded as follows southerly on Josiah Obears land westerly on Joseph Fairfields land northerly on land of s^d Joseph Fairfield easterly on a highway to the bounds first mentioned containing about ten acres. Another piece of meadow land containing two acres bounded as follows westerly on the meadow hills and land of Thomas Kimble [*sic*] northerly & easterly on land of the s^d Josiah Fairfield to the bounds first mentioned. To have & to hold in manner as afores^d reserving however the use & improvement of the aforesaid premises to the widow Elizazabeth [*sic*] Fairfield during her natural life Likewise I do by these presents forever quitclaim to the s^d Josiah Fairfield for and in consideration of the sum of thirty three pounds £ m[oney] to me in hand paid before the delivery hereof, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge A certain piece of land lying in Wenham containing nine acres &

32 Essex County Deeds 153:244 (Matthew Fairfield to [Dr.] Josiah Fairfield [Jr.], 1788).

33 Essex County Deeds 155:11 (Billy Porter and Matthew Fairfield to Dr. Josiah Fairfield [Jr.], 1787) uses the phrase "£ money" when describing the purchase price: Apparently "£my" is an abbreviated form of that phrase.

bounded as follows notherly [*sic*] on the highway westerly on land of Lydia Gott southerly & easterly on land of the s^d Joshua [*sic*] Fairfield to the bounds first mentioned To have & to hold the above bargained premises with all their appurtenances—And likewise I the s^d Mathew Fairfield for & in consideration of the sum of fifteen pounds £ m[one]y well & truly paid before the delivery hereof the receipt whereof I do acknowledge do give grant & sell & convey to the s^d Josiah Fairfield his heirs & assigns forever the northerly part of the Mansion house of Josiah Fairfield Esq. deceased aforementioned with all the priviledges & appurtenances thereto belonging together with thirteen acres of meadow land lying in Wenham one piece bounded as follows easterly on land of Cornelius Baker northerly & westerly on the heirs of Joshua Towns southerly on land of the s^d Josiah Fairfield to the bounds first mentioned containing about ten acres. Another piece of land containg [*sic*] about three acres bounded as follows easterly on the highway westerly on land of Jacob Towns & John Rea southerly on land of Andrew Dodge to the bounds first mentioned To have & to hold the afores^d granted premises as before described. And I do covenant with s^d Josiah Fairfield that s^d premises are free & clear of all incumbrances as before described and that I the s^d Mathew Fairfield for myself my heirs executors & administrators do warrant & defend all the aforementioned premises against the lawfull claims & demands of any person or persons whatsoever as before described And I Abigail Fairfield wife of s^d Mathew Fairfield do by these presents surrender up all my right of dower & power of the thirds to the abovementioned premises In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands & seals this first day of October ADomini one thousand seven hundred and eight eight—

Matth Fairfield & a seal

signed sealed & delivered in presence of—	}	Essex SS January 14 th 1792 then the above-
Billy Porter—	{	named Matthew Fairfield personally acknowl-
Joseph Fairfield—	}	edged the foregoin [<i>sic</i>] Instrument to be his
		free Deed, before me
		Jos. Batchelder jr Justice of the
		peace

Essex SS Rec^d Jan 14. 1792 & recorded & exam^d by John Pickering Reg^r

MATTHEW FAIRFIELD TO THOMAS KIMBALL JR. AND JOSEPH FAIRFIELD,
FEBRUARY 23, 1797
“Mansion House” and Six-Acre Lot³⁴

Know all men by these presents that I Mathew Fairfield of New Boston, in the County of Hillsborough and State of New hamshire [*sic*] gentleman for and in consideration of three hundred and thirty three dollars and thirty three cents lawful money to me in hand paid by and between Thomas Kimball & Joseph Fairfield both of Wenham in the county of Essex and commonwealth of Massachusetts gentlemen, the receipt wereof [*sic*] I do hereby acknowledge have given granted bargained and sold and do by these presents give grant bargain sell and convey unto the said Thomas Kimball and Joseph Fairfield their heirs and assigns forever, A Mansion house together with a certain piece of land hereafter mentioned lying in said Wenham bounded as follows, vis,^[35] westerly on the highway, northerly on land belonging to the heirs of Daniel Gott deceased eastwardly on land belonging to the said Thomas Kimball and Jos^h Fairfield to the bounds first mentioned – Also a small piece of land (called the nursery) bounded as above and included in the above, the whole being six acres more or less. To have and to hold the said granted premises with all the privileges & appurtenances to the same belonging to them the s^d Thomas Kimball and Joseph Fairfield their heirs and assigns to their only proper use forever. And I the s^d Mathew Fairfield my heirs executors and administrators do hereby agree grant and covenant to and with the s^d Thomas Kimball and Joseph Fairfield their heirs and assigns, that until the delivery hereof I am the lawful owner of the s^d premises and am seized and possessed thereof in my own right in fee simple, that they are free and clear off [*sic*] all and every incumbrance whatsoever and that I and my heirs executors & administrators shall and will warrant the same to them the s^d Thom^s Kimball & Jos^h Fairfield their heirs and assigns against the lawful claims & demands of any person or persons whomsoever. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty third day of Feb^y anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven

Matth Fairfield & a seal

signed sealed and delivered in presence off [<i>sic</i>])	a seal
William Fairfield Sam ^l Obear ----)	a seal

34 Essex County Deeds 162:277 (Matthew Fairfield to Thomas Kimball [Jr.] and Joseph Kimball, 1797).

35 Did either the deed writer or John Pickering (the county’s deed recorder) inadvertently omit the word “running” here?

Essex SS. Febr^y 24th 1797 personally appeared the within named Mathew Fairfield and Acknowledged the [within] written [sic] written Instrument to be his free act & Deed

Coram Tyler Porter Just Peace

Essex SS. Rec^d Dec^r. 7. 1797 & recorded & examined by John Pickering Reg^r

JOSEPH FAIRFIELD AND THOMAS KIMBALL JR. TO SAMUEL FISKE JR., DECEMBER 8, 1797

Front Part of the Dwelling House, and Six-Acre Lot³⁶

Know all men by these presents that we Joseph Fairfield of Wenham in the County of Essex and commonwealth of Massachusetts Esq^r. and Thomas Kimball jun.^r of Wenham in said County & Commonwealth aforesaid yeomen with the consent of each of our wives Elizabeth & Huldah in consideration of Three hundred forty-three dollars lawful money paid us and one third of a dollar by Samuel Fisk of Wenham in the County of Essex & Commonwealth aforesaid cordwainer the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge do hereby give, grant sell and convey unto the said Samuel Fisk his heirs & assigns forever a certain tract of land scituate [sic] in Wenham afores.^d bounded as followeth (viz) beginning at the highway against Tho.^s Kimballs land or lane leading to his house running westerly upon the highway to land of Daniel Gotts heirs from thence northerly to land of Tho.^s Kimball from thence easterly by land of the said Kimball to the first mentioned bounds with the front part of the dwelling house thereon containing about six acres to be the same more or less with all the privileges thereto belonging. To have and to hold the same to the said Samuel Fisk and his heirs and assigns to his and their use and benefit forever and we do covenant with the said Samuel Fisk and his heirs and assigns that we are lawfully seized in fee of the premises that they are free of all incumbrances that we have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Samuel Fisk and his heirs & assigns and that we will warrant and defend the same to said Samuel Fisk and his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of any persons whomsoever In witness whereof we the said Joseph and Thomas, Elizabeth & Huldah have hereunto set our hands and seals this eight [sic] day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven—

36 Essex County Deeds 163:19 (Joseph Fairfield and Thomas Kimball Jr. to Samuel Fisk[e] [Jr.], 1797).

Samuel Fiske Jr. (1773–1846) was the son of Samuel and Sarah (Perkins) Fiske of Ipswich. See Essex County Deeds 194:20 (Samuel Fiske [Jr.] to Joshua Orne, 1805); and Pierce (1896), 131, 200.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of	Joseph Fairfield & a seal
Isaac Porter, Paul Porter—	Thomas Kimball j ^r & a seal
Essex. Ss December eight 1797 Then the	Elizabeth Fairfield & a seal
above named Joseph Fairfield & Tho ^s	Huldiah [<i>sic</i>] Kimball & a seal
Kimball—	
acknowledged the above instrument to be their free Deed	before me
	Tyler Porter Just Pacis
Essex Ss Rec. ^d Dec. ^r 12. 1797 & recorded & examn. ^d by John Pickering Reg ^r	

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INDEX

- Addams, Elizabeth..... 113
 Appleton, Elizabeth..... 214, 220–23
 Baker
 John (1770-1821)..... 42
 John (ca.1700-1745), Capt....40, 42, 59
 Barns..... 17, 20, 42, 67, 68, 90, 93, 94, 96,
 97, 103, 114, 203, 205, 208, 210, 211,
 215, 216, 219
 Batchelder
 Benjamin.....106
 Ebenezer..... 46, 59
 John (1667-1754), Jr. ..102–6, 118, 119
 John (bp.1638-1698)..... 102, 103
 John Batchelder Jr. Farm..... 184–86
 John Batchelder Jr. House..... 103, 124
 Joseph (1662-1720)..... 46, 118, 119
 Joseph (d.ca.1647).....101
 Samuel.....106
 Bibber, Goody.....79
 Bragg, Nathaniel..... 109, 174
 Brick Kilns.....51
 Browning, Thomas..... 101–2
 Cider House.....218
 Claflin-Richards House.....67, 68, 120
 Clark, Lydia.....53
 Commons Distribution.....45, 72, 75, 104
 Crowninshield, George..... 55, 79
 Cue Farm.....31
 Denman, John Jr.75, 78
 Dennis, Sarah.....53
 Dodge
 Bartholomew.....99
 Israel Andrews..... 94, 99
 Prudence.....*See* Fairfield, Prudence
 William.....73, 114, 129–30, 134–35
 Dunton, John120
 Dutch, Stephen223–25
 Eastwick, Elizabeth.....12
 Edwards
 John Jr.11
 Matthew 85, 86
 Elmwood Farm.....103
 Epidemics
 Smallpox.....66
 Fairfield
 Benjamin (1646-1664) 85, 86
 Benjamin (1708-1788) 8, 24, 29, 68,
 72, 73, 87, 208–17
 Benjamin (1783-1867)29, 69, 74, 87
 Ichabod29, 69, 87
 John (1641-1672), Jr.85, 86
 John (1669-by 1718), 3rd 4, 16, 29,
 85, 86, 90
 John (1737-1819), Rev. ..29, 69, 73, 87
 John (ca.1610-1646) ... 82–86, 102, 114
 John Fairfield Farm.....3, 7, 72, 82–90,
 92, 171–72
 John Fairfield House83
 Joseph.....29, 54, 69, 73, 87, 227–30
 Josiah ...8, 24, 55, 68, 72, 73, 82, 205–
 7, 210–20
 Josiah Jr.73, 220–23, 225–27
 Matthew .. 55, 216, 217, 218–20, 220–
 29
 Priscilla73
 Prudence 129–30, 135
 Samuel29, 69, 87
 Sarah90

- Tabitha 129–30, 134, 138–40
 Walter 83, 85, 86
 William ... 16, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33, 46, 53,
 68, 72, 73, 85, 86–90, 108, 114,
 118, 119, 130, 131, 203–9
 William (1691-1691), Jr. 90
 William (1732-1773), Dr. 79, 94
 William (b.1777), Dr. 73
 William Fairfield House 69, 86–90,
 124
- Fiske**
 Benjamin 96
 Daniel 29
 Ebenezer 96
 Fiske Family Tree 32
 Fiske-Gott House 21, 124
 Fiske-Ober House 96–98, 124
 Fiske-Patch-Batchelder House *See*
 Newman-Fiske-Dodge House
 James 12
 John (bp.1627-1683) 4, 11, 12, 15,
 51, 53, 199–200
 John (ca.1601-1677), Rev. 9, 10, 11,
 72, 90, 101, 102, 109, 110
 Peggy (-----) 63
 Phineas 10–18, 31, 53
 Phineas Fiske Farm 3, 7, 10–30, 77
 Rev. John Fiske Farm 102, 107, 109
 Samuel (1773-1846), Jr. 229
 Samuel (carpenter) 11, 53
 Samuel (tailor) 12, 23, 24, 28, 91, 92,
 118, 119
 Samuel (weaver) 68
 Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) Farm... 145–
 50, 180–82
 Samuel Fiske (the Tailor) House... 124
 Theophilus 96, 99
 Theophilus Fiske House 124
 Thomas (bp.1630-1707) 11, 12, 17,
 63, 67
 Thomas (ca.1653-1723), Jr. 16, 17,
 22, 47, 58, 60, 64–68, 118, 119, 129
 Thomas Fiske Jr. Farm 7, 63–68,
 169–70
 Thomas Fiske Jr. House 124
 William (1643-1728), Jr. 17–22, 28,
 92, 93–96, 108, 118, 119, 131
 William (1663-1745), 3rd 20, 22
- William (ca.1614-1654) ... 10, 11, 90–91
 William Fiske Jr. Farm (Cherry Street)
 173–79
 William Fiske Jr. Farm (Topsfield
 Road) 17–22, 142–44
 William Fiske Sr. Farm 7, 90–100,
 173–82
- Fitch, Martha 63
 Fowler, Joseph Jr. 93
 Francis, Sarah 10
Friend
 Friend Farm 31
 James (ca.1633-1718) 9, 59, 72, 78,
 108, 109, 118, 119, 129
 Gerrish, Joseph, Rev. 68, 120, 129
 Gilbert, John 4, 23, 24, 200–201
Gott
 Charles Gott Jr. House *See* Kent-
 Schlehuber House
 Charles Jr. 21, 53, 57, 118, 119, 121,
 199–200, 202
 Daniel 53, 56, 199–200
 John (1668-1723) 4, 20, 21, 48, 54,
 60, 202
 John (ca.1694-1761), Jr. 20, 22, 152
- Greene**
 Greene-Rich House 124
 John 41
Gristmills 37
- Hacker**
 Joseph 42, 43, 80
 Joseph Hacker House 124
 Hawes, Robert 12
- Herrick**
 Benjamin 42, 44, 46
 Ephraim 9
 Ephraim Jr. 9
 Henry 9, 72
 Herrick Farm 9, 31
 John 9, 28, 42, 46, 53
 John Jr. 9
 Joseph 9, 28, 42, 44, 46, 53, 59
 Josiah 42, 46, 94
 Stephen 59
 Zachariah 9
- Hood, Richard 50
 Hooker *See* Hacker

- Indigenous People..... 4
 Agawam Paths 115, 116
 Ingersoll, Richard 115
 Kemp, Edward 8, 12, 90, 91, 101, 129
 Kent
 Kent, Henry S. 80, 81
 Kent-Schlehuber House 55, 57, 123
 Kielhaue, W. H. 98
 Kilham
 Daniel (1649-1734), Jr. 4, 16, 23, 24, 86, 200–201
 Daniel (ca.1620-1700) 4, 23–24, 200–201
 Daniel Kilham Sr. Farm..... 23–30
 Sarah 96
 Thomas 15, 23, 24, 28, 45, 46, 53, 72, 73, 118, 119, 121, 124, 203–4
 Kimball
 Caleb 9, 46, 59, 118, 119
 Ebenezer 109
 Edmund 40
 Edward 74
 Edward L. 11, 103
 Elwell F. 44
 Ephraim 46, 117, 118, 119
 George W. 71, 74, 87, 113
 John 33, 61
 Jonathan Jr. 22, 31
 Mary E. 71, 74, 113
 Nathaniel..... 11, 31, 40, 41, 54, 74, 79, 113, 150, 177, 191, 197, 198
 Paul 103
 Richard (1683-1713) 9, 109
 Richard (ca.1623-1676), Jr. 72, 86, 101
 Richard Kimball Jr. Farm (Cherry Street) 102
 Richard Kimball Jr. Farm (Lord's Hill) 31
 Samuel (1677-1746), Jr. 9, 22, 46, 60, 61, 109
 Samuel (ca.1651-1716) 9, 86, 109
 Solomon E. 30, 41, 44, 50
 Thomas (1657-ca.1732) 46, 86, 118, 119
 Thomas (1730-1805) 22, 31, 152, 165, 185
 Thomas (1756-1810), Jr. 21, 40, 109, 152, 153, 165, 166, 227–30
 Thomas (1789-1845), 3rd 40, 99, 148, 178
 King Philip's War 63
 Lamson, Phoebe 99
 Leach
 John (bp.1616) 39
 John (bp.1648-1717?), Jr. 40, 118, 119
 John Leach Jr. House 123
 Lawrence 37, 39, 115
 Lawrence Leach Farm *See* Place Names, Leach's Meadow
 Robert 39
 Lord
 Lord's Farm 110
 William 9, 72, 110
 Lord's Farm *See* Place Names, Lord's Hill
 Meeting House
 Ipswich 37
 North Beverly 119
 Salem 37
 Wenham 10, 11, 13, 91, 200, 210, 214
 Mileham, Elizabeth 37
 Moulton
 James (1602-1680) 3, 9, 72, 78, 102, 106–13, 129
 James (bp.1637-1696), Jr. 113, 118, 119, 121
 James Moulton Farm... 3, 7, 9, 106–14, 187–98
 James Moulton Jr. House 111, 113, 123
 James Moulton Sr. House 112, 121, 123
 John 131
 Jonathan 131
 Samuel 9, 112, 117, 118, 119
 Newman
 Antipas, Rev. . 8, 12, 16, 58, 90, 91, 92, 101, 118, 121, 129
 John 92, 118, 119
 Newman-Fiske-Dodge House.. 93–96, 123

- Norton
 George..... 107, 109
 Norton-Rumball Farm..... 107, 109
 Obear, Samuel..... 42, 73, 112, 113, 131,
 147, 148, 174, 177, 178, 181, 191, 197,
 198
 Ober
 Josiah 96
 Ober House..... *See* Fiske-Ober House
 Osbourne
 William 58
 William Osbourne Farm..... 7, 58–62,
 93, 162–68
 Page, John..... 21
 Peach
 Adelaide (Coffin)..... 81
 Benjamin..... 81
 Perkins, Rebecca..... 64
 Pinkham, Julia (Ober)..... 97
 Place Names
 Alewife Brook..... 11
 Birch Plains 8, 39, 41
 Birch Plains Brook..... 40
 Blind Hole Swamp..... *See* Leach's
 Swamp
 Cedar Pond..... 31, 101, 109
 Company Pasture..... 71, 73–74, 74
 Fiske's Little Piece 203
 Folly Hill 39
 Great Meadow..... 8, 12, 59, 62, 67, 75,
 117, 118, 119
 Great Pond..... *See* Wenham Lake
 Great Swamp *See* Wenham Swamp
 Great Swamp Landing Place..... 104
 Hood's Island..... 50
 Leach's Hill..... 39
 Leach's Meadow..... 7, 8, 37–43
 Leach's Swamp..... 7, 22, 44–50, 69,
 151–55
 Long Field 21, 166
 Lord's Hill..... 7, 40, 46, 69–75, 90, 110
 Lord's Meadow..... 203–4
 Meadow Hill..... 8, 61
 Miles River..... 11
 Moulton Hill 109
 Muddy Pond 31
 Plainfields, The 93
 Plains, The 54, 93
 Pleasant Pond..... 101
 Spring Pasture 40, 41
 Straits, The..... 31, 100
 Thirty-Acre Brook..... 40
 Wenham Causeway..... 117, 118, 204
 Wenham Lake 11, 110, 115
 Wenham Neck 12
 Wenham Swamp..... 8, 62, 74, 75
 Woods, The..... 3, 9, 15, 16, 39, 82, 86,
 125
 Woods, The (West Peabody) 4
 Porter
 Francis 21, 221
 John (1596-1676)..... 39, 114, 115
 John (1658-1753)..... 78, 115
 John (1683-ca.1775), Jr..... 78
 John Porter Farm (Danvers)..... 39, 59,
 114
 John Porter Farm (West Wenham).....
 23, 78, *See* Thomas Trusler Farm
 Joseph 58, 59
 Joseph Porter Farm..... 59
 Lydia (Herrick)..... 79
 Porter-Crowninshield House 80–82,
 115, 123
 Samuel 78, 80, 82, 121
 Samuel Porter House..... *See* Porter-
 Crowninshield House
 Price, Walter 78
 Quarles, Mary 96
 Rich, Nicholas..... 28, 41, 42, 53
 Rix
 Theophilus 29, 46, 92, 93, 99
 Theophilus Rix Farm..... 145–46, 180
 Theophilus Rix House..... 99–100, 124
 Salem Witchcraft Trials..... 63, 64, 79, 94,
 102
 Sawmills..... 17
 Schools
 Schoolmaster..... 64
 Severett
 John..... 46, 108, 113, 118, 119
 John Severett Farm 192–94
 John Severett House..... 124
 Shipley, John..... 9, 72, 91, 100, 101
 Smith, Thomas..... 11, 12
 Solart
 John..... 11

- Martha 203–4
 Spooner
 Thomas 75–78
 Thomas Spooner Farm 7, 75–82
 Streets
 Bomer Street 36, 117
 Cherry Street, origin 114, 115, 117,
 118
 Company Lane 27, 74
 Flint Street.. 32, 36, 114, 117, 118, 125
 Great Swamp Highway 104
 Kent's Lane 82
 Maple Street, origin..... 114, 115, 117,
 119
 Morgan Street, origin..... 68
 Porter's Road 27, 82
 Topsfield Road, origin 117, 118
 Wenham Road (Topsfield), origin
 119
 Wenham Street (Beverly), origin... 114,
 115
 Tarbox, Thomas..... 67
 Thomson, Peter 28, 42, 53
 Trow, Benjamin 31
 Trusler
 Thomas..... 51, 114
 Thomas Trusler Farm 3, 7, 21, 28,
 51–57, 156–61
 Waldron, Nathaniel..... 130
 Ward
 John Ward House..... 82
 Wellman
 William..... 100–101
 William Wellman Farm 7, 100–106,
 183–86
 Whipple, Elizabeth..... 11
 White
 Joseph White House..... 194
 Woods, Tabitha..... *See* Fairfield, Tabitha
 Woodward, Ezekiel..... 11

